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No compensation plan upsets owners

Countryside opened up to ramblers

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

RURAL landowners accused the Government of "destroying the goodwill of the countryside" yesterday by promising ramblers a legal right to roam over four million acres of mountains, moors, heaths and downs.

They insisted that the Government had misled the electorate by opting for legislation rather than a voluntary agreement. And they were furious that they would not be compensated for having to open their land to the public.

The decision to go ahead with Labour's manifesto pledge that it would force owners to open up their land, was seen as a surprise victory for John Prescott over Tony Blair, who had favoured the voluntary approach.

But Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, did not put a timescale on the legislation and was unable to give a commitment that it would be this side of an election. Government sources pointed out that it would take time to draw up maps to decide what land should be open to the public.

Legislation is unlikely before 2001, and there are certain to be further protests from the countryside lobby — it was the Countryside March last spring that prompted Mr Blair to adopt a more conciliatory approach. Mr Meacher told MPs yesterday that all the evidence showed that a voluntary approach was inadequate. Measures had to be introduced "to make sure people will be free in perpetuity" to explore open countryside. He also argued that landowners would not be entitled to compensation because there was no evidence that land values would fall.

Even so, officials said that the measures would cost about £3 million a year to implement, with a one-off starting cost of £8 million for fencing, gates and notices. Funding would be provided by the government, the National Lottery and local councils.

The new rules would not apply to any developed land or agricultural land other than that used for extensive grazing, Mr Meacher said. There was no question of people being given the right to trample over crops or through other people's gardens, and dogs would have to be put on a lead.

He also disclosed that local "access forums" would be set up which would bring together interested parties, including landowners, conservationists and councils, to agree how access should be managed.

But the Countryside Landowners Association was furious that the Government was refusing to provide compensation. "The Government's decision to proceed with a statutory right of access on foot alone to mountain, moor, heath, downland and commonland has destroyed the goodwill of the countryside and confirmed the worst fears of all who took part in the Countryside March," a spokesman said.

"The Government is aware that all legislation in the UK must stand up to the Protocol of the European Human Rights Convention. We believe that a statutory right of access without appropriate compensation will fail this test."

Richard Burge, chief executive of the Countryside Alliance, said: "The Government proposals disappoint us as the emphasis is on creation of rights for the majority, rather than protection of livelihoods of those rural people who reside in the areas targeted by this legislation.

"Insufficient emphasis has been placed on the responsibilities of walkers and how they will be enforced. However, we are pleased that Mr Meacher recognises that you cannot impose a national solution on the tapestry of the British countryside and its people."

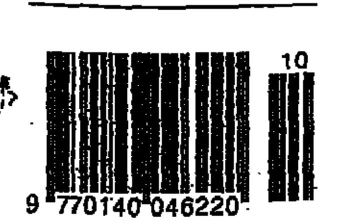
The Ramblers Association welcomed the proposals, provided they were backed up by early legislation. "This is an historic moment," a spokeswoman said. "This is the first time any government has recognised that landowners cannot be trusted to open uncultivated land voluntarily."

The association was, however, suspicious of the appointment of Ewen Cameron as head of the Countryside Agency, which will be given powers to police the right to roam. Mr Cameron, a former president of the Country Landowners Association, will have the power to grant temporary access exemptions for landowners for breeding or shooting seasons.

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Monica Lewinsky's tears were put down to jetlag and flu — but she still managed to sign her name eight times a minute

Monica beats the Iron Lady

By Carol Midgley, Media Correspondent

MONICA'S STORY
Monica L

PERHAPS it was jet lag or possibly the bagpipe music that serenaded her entrance into Harrods. But after just five minutes in the company of the British media, the woman who survived two Grand Jury hearings and six interrogations by Kenneth Starr's prosecutors had to be led away in tears.

Monica Lewinsky, who had arrived for the first signing session of Andrew Morton's biography, looked alarmed by the 150-strong wall of waiting cameramen. And faced with a barrage of shouts of "smile Monica", "over here, Monica", "hold the book up, come on!", she whispered "I can't do it" before being ushered to a side room wiping her eyes.

Harrods staff quickly explained she had "a bit of flu". "Monica hasn't been feeling too well", a spokesman told waiting customers. "I think she was feeling a bit overwhelmed. It was decided that she should leave the room for just a few minutes after it became too much."

Thirty minutes later, she re-emerged, flushed but smiling, and began signing books at the impressive rate of eight a minute for the 400 people in a queue through the books' business management and military history section into the travel section and beyond.

Ms Lewinsky, sitting at an ornate table and wearing a navy blue pin-striped suit, smiled gamely at most of them saying simply "thank you very much" as they passed on their best wishes.

Chris Mitchell, from Missouri, said: "I asked her to put the date and she said 'I don't even know what day it is'."

Mrs Anne Kersey, 39, who was first in the queue after waiting for six hours, said: "I told her it was terribly brave of her to come here today. I said, 'I will pray for you, but most of all I feel sorry for your mother. It must be so hard for her to watch you being chased around.' She said it was kind of me to say so. She was shaking like a leaf — she looked absolutely terrified."

Harrods, however, declared themselves delighted by her visit, which broke the store's record for sales at a book signing. Baroness Thatcher's appearance sold 1,000 copies of her autobiography *The Downing Street Years*. Ms Lewinsky sold 1,150.

Michael Howard to quit Shadow Cabinet

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

MICHAEL HOWARD is to step down from the Tory frontbench in a move that will help William Hague to make another break with the past.

The most senior survivor of the Major Government has told Mr Hague that he wants to go in the next Shadow Cabinet reshuffle, expected in the summer. And he may be the first of several to bow out in the coming months. Sir Norman Fowler, the Shadow Home Secretary, has always made plain that he is ready to stand aside whenever Mr Hague wants.

Mr Howard, 57, said last night that he had served on the frontbench for 14 consecutive years and that was "probably long enough for anyone".

He said: "I have told William that I want to leave the Shadow Cabinet at the next reshuffle. I want to speak on many topics other than foreign affairs. I intend to be an active MP and to support him from the backbenches."

The Shadow Foreign Secretary is understood to have made his decision shortly before he went to South Africa in January and to have written telling Mr Hague of his intentions when he returned on February 1.

While Mr Howard was away reports surfaced that Mr Hague wanted both him and John Redwood to stand down, although the party leadership denied the stories outright. Mr Hague apparently assured Mr Howard that the reports were wrong and told him that if he changed his mind about going, he should let him know.

However, Mr Howard has decided to bow out and to pursue his business interests — he already has three non-executive directorships. He also intends to continue as a backbencher, and to contest the next election.

The news of Mr Howard's imminent departure will inevitably be seen as another example of a senior Tory deciding that the party has little chance of winning the next election.

Last big hitter, page 2

Breast implant banned

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

A BREAST implant originally extolled for its safety was withdrawn by the Government yesterday after patients complained of swelling and inflammation.

Trilucent implants contain soya oil, which was claimed to be completely safe. But up to 30 of the 5,000 women fitted with them have suffered reactions that may have been linked to the implants leaking.

The effects disappear when the implants are removed, but, on the advice of the Medical Devices Agency, the Health Department ordered that the implant should be withdrawn pending tests. It said that not enough was known about long-term safety, the rate of breakdown of the soya oil and what it does to the body.

The distributors, Lipomatrix and Collagen Aesthetics International, based in Thame, Oxfordshire, agreed and patients were advised to speak to their surgeon or GP. Helplines have been set up by the Health Department (0800 004440) and the distributors (0800 216 613).

Since the Trilucent implant was introduced to Britain in 1995, the Medical Devices Agency has received 74 "adverse incident" reports. Many were from women unhappy with the appearance of their breasts. But between 20 and 30 cases involved localised swelling and redness.

The problem has been caused by the soya oil breaking down differently from the artificially-aged oil used when the implant was first approved. The effect is to create some biologically-active substances which have caused inflammation. The new tests aim to discover how toxic these substances are.

Amanda Cameron, a vice-president of Collagen International, insisted the product was safe, adding: "I would have these implants tomorrow."

Surgeon's view, page 5
Dr Stuttaford, page 16

Straw pays £200,000 for Pinochet

JACK STRAW has given Surrey police £200,000 to help pay for protecting General Augusto Pinochet. The bill for keeping the former Chilean dictator safe is believed to be costing the taxpayer over £50,000 a week.

MPs are demanding that the Home Secretary reveals how much his decision to make the 83-year-old General face an extradition trial has cost in security.

Police have been guarding him round the clock since he was arrested in October. If the Law Lords decide next week that he must stand trial the operation to guard him could last another year or more.

End of a cricketing era

By Brian Hobson

THE decline of the West Indies as a force in world cricket spiralled further yesterday when they were dismissed by Australia for 51, the lowest score in their history.

Once feared by their test rivals as being practically unbeatable, there is now a fear that they may be heading towards oblivion.

Defeat in the first test in Port of Spain, Trinidad, followed a 5-0 reverse in South Africa and arrived just when the sport, once synonymous with Caribbean life, desperately needed a pick-me-up. If there is delight in certain quarters that the side who battered all-comers into submission in the 80s — beating England 5-0 in successive series — should now receive a taste of its own medicine then it is tempered by fears for the future of the game.

Only in cricket do the islands unite to form one team and the successes under Clive Lloyd and Viv Richards brought pride to the area. Failure is divisive, however, and as the islands bicker among themselves the alternative options of soccer and basketball become ever more attractive to the next generation.

The conveyor belt of fast bowlers that moved from Holding and Roberts through Garner, Marshall and Croft to Ambrose and Walsh has broken down, the dashing strokemakers to rival Sobers, Richards, Greenidge and Lloyd have dumped their makeshift bats on the beaches.

The authorities have no money, facilities even at the major grounds are poor and the television companies have lost interest.

Nothing is more symptomatic of the changing fortunes than the demise of Brian Lara. Holder of the individual world record first-class and test scores (501 and 375) he has become a shadow of a batsman who once played like a prince.

Australia triumph, page 52

Blair diverts right-to-roam activists along the Third Way



Two years ago, new Labour fought a general election promising a "right to roam". People assumed that "right" meant a *real right: a right in law.*

Yesterday afternoon a minister rephrased the Marxist "right to roam" to the more *Third Way "right of area access"*; restricted the countryside involved to "mountain, moor, heath and down"; excluded Scotland; placed Wales under the care of its incoming assembly; and told MPs that proposals would take time to prepare. Ministers could not guarantee anything this side of a general election. Why, maps would have to be made.

In short, the minister restated *a two-year-old intention,* focused and somewhat restricted, but failed to say when.

He was greeted by something approaching sobs of relief. Labour backbenchers had feared the Government was going to abandon the commitment altogether. "I feel kinda warm towards new Labour at the moment," gasped Gordon Prentice (Lab, Stroppy Left, Pendle), blinking in disbelief *at the sudden warmth of his* feelings for the Government.

As hairy lefties behind them grovelled in relief, one watched ministers more in admiration than mockery. What an achievement — so to fan your supporters' fears that when at last you tell them you will do a bit of what you promised, they fall on your neck in gratitude. Tony Blair's continuing ability to combine the hero's swagger with the hedger's creep is astonishing.

And the Tories played Labour's game. One after the other they rose yesterday, pink with indignation that someone was going to start consulting on the drawing up of a set of maps which could one day — if they are ever agreed — be used as the basis for an open-ended consultation. Oh — and the chair of the agency being set up to consider this is a former Chairman of the Country Landowners' Association. Gentlemen, this is not the end of civilisation as we know it.

Welsh Nationalists were cross too. Elfyn Llwyd (Plaid Cymru, Meironnydd & Conwy) shocked the minister, Michael Meacher, by calling the right to roam a "right to traipse". Nicholas Soames (C, Mid Sussex), in a moving plea *for the safety of nesting chicks* — as heartfelt as any Walrus tears for little oysters — all but called it the "right to spoil my shooting".

Everybody with a beard was enthusiastic, but there are beards and beards. Jeremy Corbyn (Lab, Islington N) has a progressive urban thinker's beard. He couldn't wait to send his constituents (the most densely-packed in Britain, he said) to disturb Mr Soames's chicks. Tories "pretend to love the countryside, for the purposes of killing". Andrew Bennett (Lab, Denton & Reddish), has a rambler's beard: a big black bush in walking boots, with a squeaky voice. "Good news!" *he twittered.* Bearded Paddy Tipping, a minister, nodded happily on the bench.

As Labour chirruped and the Tories *squawked,* an unworthy thought struck this sketch. No government, surely, could finalise a foxhunting *Bill until they had sorted out* access to the countryside — could they?

And how can they sort out access until the mapmakers have agreed their maps? And how can mapmakers begin mapping until the new Countryside Agency has agreed *what they* are to map? And . . . *my* goodness me — another general election already! Clear the legislative pipeline. How *time flies.*

The First Way is Do it. The Second Way is Don't. The Third Way is Yes, super! — by *all means* — Tony's right with you on this one . . . but not yet.

Critic in charge, page 4

Ulster is given Good Friday deadline again

BY MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Government yesterday gave Unionist and republican leaders a deadline of Good Friday to break the deadlock over IRA disarmament or face the collapse of the peace accord reached exactly a year earlier.

Mo Mowlam abandoned tomorrow's target date for creating the Province's new executive, despite claims by Gerry Adams that such a capitulation to Unionist intransigence would plunge the process "into crisis, big-time".

But the Northern Ireland *Secretary promised to trigger* the mechanism for establishing the executive by April 2, come what may. At that point *one side or the other would* have to give ground or Ulster would face the prospect of wholesale violence. Dr Mow*lam said she had "no Plan B".*

Sources said she was deliberately forcing the issue because any hope of resolving the impasse will vanish after Easter. The marching season begins on Easter Monday and Ian Paisley has pledged to turn June's Euro-elections into a referendum on the accord.

The effect will be to recreate the pressure-cooker atmosphere that produced the accord in a frantic final week of negotiation last year. Both Dublin and Washington are believed to have endorsed this strategy.

Dr Mowlam's hopes of transferring power to the executive tomorrow were dashed by the IRA's refusal to start disarming and the Unionists' refusal to admit Sinn Fein to government until it does.

Just hours before her statement, Mr Adams, Sinn Fein's president, declared that the Government's failure to proceed tomorrow would cause a major crisis. He said that he *would do all in his power to en*sure that the IRA remained on ceasefire, but some people were using the decommission*ing issue to try to force Sinn* Fein out of the political process and the IRA back to war.

David Trimble, Northern *Ireland's First Minister,* will meet Mr Adams and Martin McGuinness at Stormont today, but neither side anticipates progress.

Next week President Clinton will bring all his influence to bear when he meets Mr Trimble, Mr Adams and other party leaders at St Patrick's Day festivities in Washington.

Thereafter Dr Mowlam envisages intense negotiations, with Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern, the Irish Taoiseach, likely to be involved. Unless the deadlock is broken by the end of March, Dr Mowlam will trigger the mechanism for establishing the executive.

The politicians would then be in uncharted and dangerous waters. Mr Trimble could seek Sinn Fein's expulsion, or "park" the process by demanding a government review of the accord's implementation. But both he and Mr Adams know that political vacuums in Northern Ireland are almost invariably filled by bloodshed.

Dr Mowlam and David Andrews, the Irish Foreign Minister, increased the pressure on *Sinn Fein and the IRA yester*day when they signed four inter-governmental treaties to establish the new cross-border *and British-Irish bodies* once the executive is formed. Both ministers emphasised that just "one piece of the jigsaw" remained to be put in place.

The Irish Times blamed the IRA for the deadlock, saying that "from the beginning the IRA has not moved a millimetre". But Niall O'Dowd, a friend of Mr Adams, cautioned against the "mistaken assumption that the IRA would not go back to war under any circumstances".

CHRIS HARRIS



Michael Howard is applauded with his wife Sandra at the Tory conference in 1995

Something of the night is now someone of the past

BY MARK INGLEFIELD, POLITICAL REPORTER

MICHAEL HOWARD'S departure from frontline politics is unlikely to trigger communal weeping in the Tory party *but* few Conservatives will deny that they have lost one of their biggest hitters.

It is this paradox — that he was good but never well liked — that probably scuppered Mr Howard's attempt to lead the Tories in 1997, after their general election defeat. Mr Howard almost persuaded William Hague to drop out *and agree to be his deputy if* Mr Howard won the race. Despite apparently agreeing to the deal over champagne, Mr Hague backed out the next day. Many of Mr Howard's supporters never forgave Mr Hague.

When Ann Widdecombe declared that there was "something of the night" about Mr Howard, she aired the feelings of many at Westminster. And it did not help that Mr Howard, who was a highly successful QC before becoming an MP in 1983, had a reputation for smugness.

But this did not hinder a rapid rise up the ministerial ladder. He entered politics late, at the age of 42, and went on to hold a succession of jobs before becoming Home Secretary in 1993. It was at the Home Office that he set his political profile in stone. He tackled crime with an iron fist, but *a number of prison escapes un*dermined his credibility.

And although his tub-thumping anti-crime speeches delighted the party faithful, one of his outbursts — that children brought up without fathers were likely to turn to crime — backfired terribly. On cue, the former husband of his wife, the Sixties model Sandra Paul, revealed that Mr Howard's adulterous relationship with her had taken away their son from his father.

A source close to Mr Hague said: "He has been a thoroughly professional member of the Shadow Cabinet. He has run his opposite number ragged. He has provided a valuable source of advice, his experience will be missed." Mr Howard made plain his departure had "absolutely nothing" to do with Mr Hague's new "kitchen-table Toryism", disclosed in *The Times* yesterday.

Hague supports people's march on euro

BY JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM HAGUE yesterday backed the idea of a "people's march" against the euro as he launched the Tory commission that will argue the case for keeping the pound.

The Conservative leader also outlined the party's new strategy of focusing on "kitchen table" issues, citing potential membership of the euro as a good example.

Mr Hague said a mass rally in London against the euro, modelled on the Countryside Alliance march last year which attracted 300,000 people, was "a very good idea".

"It is vital to show that there are people of all political persuasions, and none, who feel very strongly about this. A march may be one of the ways *of doing that,"* he added.

The move came as the Anti-Maastricht Alliance announced that it would hold a march *against the euro on* May 29. The so-called March for Freedom will take place in conjunction with a ceremony at Runnymede where the Magna Carta was signed.

The new euro commission, headed by Sir John Nott, the former Tory Cabinet minister, is expected to report later this year on the economic benefits of Britain remaining outside the euro. Set up largely to provide an alternative to the Government's national changeover plan, it will technically be independent of Tory Central Office and privately financed.

Sir John, 67, currently chairman of Lazards Brothers merchant bank, said: "There are 400 countries in the world with their own currency. I am not sure why we shouldn't have our own."

Leading article and Letters, page 23

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hamilton accused over action

Neil Hamilton, the former Conservative MP, was accused yesterday of seeking to undermine the sovereignty of Parliament by bringing a libel action against Mohamed Al Fayed.

George Carman, QC, representing the Harrods owner, said that Mr Hamilton, the former MP for Tatton, was seeking to "overturn the findings of proceedings of Parliament". Mr Carman was opening an appeal by Mr Al Fayed who is seeking to stop Mr Hamilton's libel action against him.

Pay-per-view fear

Chief constables fear pay-per-view football will lead to a rise in violence and congestion as more supporters watch in pubs. The Association of Chief Police Officers has contacted the FA Premier League and Football League about its fears.

Sarwar cleared

The Labour MP Mohammed Sarwar was cleared of illegal*ly adding four names to the* electoral register in the Glasgow Govan constituency after the prosecution said that it *wished to withdraw* the charge for legal reasons.

Driver let off

The Crown Prosecution service has dropped charges against Gary Davis, a taxi driver from Birtley, Tyne and Wear, who was bookedfor overtaking on a zebra crossing while rushing a kidney patient to hospital.

Hole in skull

An RAF surgeon who operated on a woman with earache "lost his way" and drilled a 5cm hole in her skull, a medical conduct committee was told. The hearing into allegations against Wing Commander Derek Hall, continues.

Brown set to boost enterprise

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

GORDON BROWN will today present a "broadly neutral" Budget designed to leave room for the Bank of England to make further cuts in interest rates.

In what he described last night as a package for "work, enterprise and families", the Chancellor, who met the Prime Minister twice yesterday to finalise his plans, is expected to unveil tax reforms, including moves towards the long-heralded 10p starting rate of tax.

This is expected to be met by the phased or outright removal of other reliefs, including the married couple's allowance and the remainder of mortgage interest tax relief. With interest rates low, now would be a relatively painless time to do it. The Chancellor is likely to signal that the taxation of child benefit for higher rate taxpayers will start next year, although an increase in the benefit is also expected.

The Chancellor is believed to be taking a cautious outlook, partly because of revenue shortfalls in areas such as Excise duty on tobacco and tax on North Sea oil. He also wants to send a message to the markets that he will not repeat the mistakes the Conservatives made a decade ago.

Help for business is likely in the form of tax breaks for research and development by small firms and incentives for employees to invest in their own companies.

Mr Brown last night told ITN that his Budget would be aimed at increasing the country's wealth and making it more enterprising. He said: "It is a better deal for work, for enterprise and for families. We have had a major review of economic policy and how we can be more productive and wealthy as a country. I will be bringing forward some of the conclusions." Mr Brown will announce plans for every household to receive leaflets explaining how taxes are raised and funds spent.

He will extend the welfare-to-work programme to the over-fifties. Measures to tax emissions of carbon to meet Britain's commitment at the 1997 Kyoto summit are expected. Mr Brown is committed to raising the petrol duty by at least 6 per cent a year, and to increasing duty on cigarettes by 5 per cent as part of health policy.

Mr Brown's third Budget will last about an hour. His refreshment will be Scottish water.

Michael Gove, page 22
Boost for Brown, page 27
Anatole Kaletsky, page 31

Labour to keep euro out of poll

BY ROLAND WATSON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR will try to avoid campaigning on the single currency in June's European elections amid fears that pro-*euro posturing could cost the* party votes. The strategy reflects concern in some quarters of Downing Street that the *Government's "gear-change"* towards the euro is in danger of alienating the public.

The approach sets up the prospect of an election campaign in which the central issue facing Britain and Europe is kept to the fringes. The Tories are yet to settle their campaign strategy but are worried that focusing on the euro would further divide them.

Tony Blair is being warned that the National Changeover Plan, announced last month, has placed ministers too far ahead of prevailing opinion.

Senior MPs are now looking to those Cabinet ministers *less enthusiastic about pursuing a fast track to the single* currency, such as Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, and Margaret Beckett, the Leader of *the House, to "set alarm bells* ringing" and rein in the Prime Minister and Gordon Brown.

Mrs Beckett, Labour's elec*tion campaign co-ordinator,* has made clear privately that the euro should not feature large in the elections.

Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke have delayed their involvement in the cross-party campaign to promote the single currency until after the June 10 poll amid fears that their trumpeting of the euro would damage the Tory cause. Although William Hague sees the Government's pro-euro stance as an opportu*nity for the Opposition to re*connect with large parts of the electorate, he is also aware that pushing the issue too far *could inflame Tory divisions.*



هكذا من الأصل

Books marked for distinction

Gradings indicate levels of violence, predictability and optimism, report Helen Johnstone and Susie Steiner



Wuthering Heights, by Emily Brontë, published in 1847. Plot: two families, the Earnshaws and the Lintons, fight out a battle of sexual passion versus moral order on the Yorkshire moors in a tale of obsessive love between Catherine and *Heathcliffe*.

MODERN classics and great works of literature are to be marked out of ten for sex, violence, optimism and a range of other categories as part of a £300,000 scheme for libraries funded by the National Lottery.

The grading system, which will advise prospective readers of a novel's bleakness, unpredictability or seriousness, is designed to encourage readers to try something new. People would be able to consult an Internet database and choose books to suit their mood.

The plan was welcomed by some authors, including Will Self, who said that anything that would lead readers to new pastures was laudable. But the novelist Fay Weldon called the scheme laughable, saying that it would result in "nobody reading anything that might take them by surprise".

Thirty-three librarians from local authorities across England have just over 12 months to grade 1,000 books for the Branching Out scheme. If it proves to be a success, the database could be expanded to cover more than 5,000 works.

Dennis Lovatt, co-ordinator at Birmingham Library, said yesterday that Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* had scored two points for optimism, happiness and humour, but seven for violence and ten for emotions.

Trainspotting, Irvine Welsh's story of heroin addiction, scored one for optimism and two for happiness, but nine for violence, repulsiveness and realism.

The best-selling *Bridget Jones's Diary*, by Helen Fielding, scored nine for readability and humour and ten for emotion, but five for optimism.

Mr Lovatt said: "Some people get into a rut with reading and once they have read everything by their favourite author they don't know what to read next.

"People want to have books recommended to them. Instead we will be classifying more diverse literature, such as fiction by black British writers, gay and lesbian writers, experimental writers and translations of foreign novels. These kinds of books often find themselves in a dusty corner of a library with no one ever taking them out because people simply don't know about them."

The librarians pioneering the scheme have been selected by the Society of Chief Librarians and are undertaking special training in promoting literature to a wider audience. Rachel Van Riel, the society's director, said: "Readers will decide how much sadness and happiness they want, sex or no sex, and the levels of violence."

The librarians involved will read two books each month during the three-year training period, but Weldon questioned their position as arbiters of taste.

"I would like to know what qualifications these people have. Why should we trust them? What do they know of emotions? You might get a librarian who has never had an emotion in her life," she said.

Self, however, said: "Only an out-and-out snob would find it offensive. My novels would get zero for optimism but that wouldn't turn me off because I'm a miserable pessimist and I'm sure there are lots out there like me.

"*I hate the literary establishment*, but I like readers and I like libraries and anything that will lead people into books I'm happy about."

Jilly Cooper, the author of a series of blockbuster novels, including *Riders*, said that the concept of gradings was ridiculous. "All the wrong people will go and read books like *Trainspotting* because of the violence. It's like categorising drink with its alcohol content — it's so arbitrary. Your idea of violence might be quite *different to mine*."

Lisa Jardine, Professor of Renaissance Studies at Queen Mary and Westfield College in London, said: "Librarians already classify books by the colour of the spines and the size of them. This is no different. Anything that sorts books is alright. It just means everyone will go for ten in 'emotion'. If that gives you *Tess of the D'Urberbilles*, then it will give you every great work of fiction."

Ms Van Riel said that librar*ians working on the scheme* would promote lesser-known works to a wider range of readers.

"They are learning how to help people to make choices in what they want to read next and how to make reading attractive," she said.

"A lot of people are rediscovering books. Libraries traditionally let people find their own way but we want a much more active readership.

"Librarians presently give lots of one-to-one advice. But *we are providing a way of finding* out about books people didn't know existed and urging readers to take a risk with new writers."

Shopping is next to godliness, says new liturgy

By Ruth Gledhill
Religion Correspondent

SHOPPING may bring Christians closer to God than going to church, according to the official church liturgy for the millennium.

The new church millennium worship book requires worshippers to meditate on the hard work involved in shop*ping. "Where we shop, how* we shop and what we buy is a living statement of what we believe," states the liturgy. "Shopping which involves the shopper in making ethical and religious judgments may be nearer to the worship God requires than any number of pious prayers in church."

The book, the first of two millennium worship books, has been published days after a couple announced their plans to have their wedding blessed in a supermarket. At the same *time, the Lakeside shopping* centre in Essex has announced plans to build Britain's first shoppers' chapel.

The millennium shopping *meditation is part of the pro*posed Harvest Festival liturgy published in *New Start Worship* (£8, New Start 2000). The prayers have been put together by the ecumenical group Churches Together in England which is co-ordinating the Churches' millennium plans. The same group is responsible for the millennium prayer or "resolution" which makes no mention of Christ, and is also making plans for a "millennium candle" to be distributed to every home in England for New Year's Eve.

The liturgy advises: "If we take our roles as God's stewards seriously, shoppers collectively are a very powerful group." It adds: "If, when we ourselves are not on the poverty line, we always go for the cheapest price, without considering that this price is achieved *through ethically* unacceptable working conditions somewhere in the world, we are making a statement about our understanding of the word *neighbour*."

The book also contains a litany pleading for mercy "when the tedium of affluence leads to drug dependence".

The name of the footballer cited in literary mystery

From Richard Owen
in Rome

A FORMER Watford and England footballer is at the centre of a literary mystery in Italy involving the novelist Umberto Eco and a group of anarchists. The group use the collective identity "Luther Blissett" to hide their identity.

Blissett played — briefly — for AC Milan, but scored only five times in 30 games for the club in 1982, earning him the nickname "Luther Missit" and giving rise to the gibe that Milan had bought "the wrong black Watford player". (The "right" player would have been John Barnes.)



Blissett: says he is not pleased, "but what can you do?"

In March 1997 four young men accused of travelling on a train without a ticket all answered "Luther Blissett" when asked for their names in court. It emerged that the loosely organised group of self-styled anarchists had been struck by Blissett in Italy.

In his latest incarnation, "Luther Blissett" has written *Q*, a 650-page novel set in Renaissance times, with a mixture of real and imaginary characters. It is full of historical and literary allusions in the manner of Eco, author of *The Name of the Rose*. Described as "a saga of good and evil", the novel is set against a background of espionage, the Inquisition's ruthless struggle to root out heresy, Martin Luther and the Reformation, holy wars and peasant uprisings.

"Q" is the code name of the hero, a theological student who becomes the righthand man of Gian Pietro Carafa, the Neapolitan aristocrat who became the fanatical and narrow-minded Pope Paul IV (1555-1559), clashing with Elizabeth I and introducing the Index of Forbidden Books.



Eco: denies that he is the man behind the book, *Q*

According to *La Repubblica*, *Q* was written by Federico Guglielmi, Luca Di Meo, Giovanni Catabriga and Fabrizio Belletati. They refuse to give biographical details, beyond saying they are all between 26 and 35 and are all from Bologna. *Il Messaggero* said the book is a "masterful fresco depicting the struggle of the individual to escape from his preor*dained destiny* . . . a *metaphor* for the united Europe of today".

The authors said they had chosen the 16th century because it "saw the birth of all that is rotten in modern life: Europe, mass communications, the police state, financial capital. It took six months to research the history, another six months to work out the plot, and two years to write it," they said, speaking "collectively".

Collective writing was "like a jazz band — some are virtuoso bits, other parts we play together. Or a video game in which 20 people are credited as authors. We hope *Q* will be posted on the Internet. A novel nowadays is like interactive software . . . this is the future of creative writing".

The anarchists said they would end their attempts to *"cause panic in the sanctuaries of power"* in 2000, "because as Cary Grant said, it's better to go a minute early, leaving people wanting more, rather than a minute too late, when people are getting bored".

The publishers said they were waiving copyright on the book, in the spirit of "Luther Blissett". "Anyone can reprint it." Eco, meanwhile, has denied that the book is an elaborate "joke within a joke", and that he is "Luther Blissett".

The anarchists — their hoax*es include Naomi Campbell's* alleged cellulite problem and an exhibition of "chimpanzee art" — say "anyone can use the name to show their anger".

They chose Blissett because he was "a nice Afro-Caribbean guy who had problems with the Italian way of playing football and became a target of racist jokes. The Luther Blissett project is a way of taking revenge on stupidity".

Blissett, back on the staff at Watford, said yesterday: "I am not pleased, but what can you do about it?"

PC 'sprayed gas at ex-lover he killed'

By A Correspondent

A POLICEMAN squirted his former girlfriend in the face with CS gas he had taken from a police station and then stabbed her to death, a court was told yesterday.

Owen Palmer, 55, had allegedly lain in wait for Christine Johnson, 36, a care assistant, after harassing her for 15 months. A week before the killing he had been trained in how to use CS spray.

Norwich Crown Court was told that less than a year before the fatal attack last August, he had been warned by her solicitor that he might be guilty of stalking her and could face legal action. Charles Wide, QC, for the prosecution, said that PC Palmer had been unable to accept *that his relationship with Miss Johnson*, who worked with disabled children, was over. The officer had waited outside the house in Norwich, where she lived with her parents. Armed with a knife and the *CS spray he had struck as she returned* from a visit to a friend, he said.

After the attack PC Palmer, who denies murder, had gone to the police station where he worked, given himself up and told a *senior officer that he had* "murdered his girlfriend".

Mr Wide told the jury that the issue was not whether PC Palmer had killed Miss Johnson, but whether at the time of the killing he had been suffering from a depressive illness that substantially impaired his responsibility for her death.

PC Palmer had been unable to accept the break-up of the relationship. But although he was "plainly pessimistic and *unhappy*", *he had continued to work* satisfactorily at his job in a crime management unit.

Mr Wide said PC Palmer had been on a course to learn about the use of CS spray *eight days before he killed Miss Johnson*. "He knew that it would make her less able to defend herself when he attacked her with the knife." The trial continues.

Ramblers fear boot is on the wrong foot

Post for 'serial path-blocker' upsets walkers, report Mark Henderson and Jill Sherman

THE new Countryside Agency, which will police the right to roam, is to be headed by a former president of the Countryside Landowners' Association, who is an outspoken opponent of increased access.

Ewen Cameron will have a key role in the implementation of the regulations. His quango will rule on exemptions from the statutory right to roam and he can be expected to take a much tougher line with ramblers than with estate owners.

The appointment was welcomed by countryside groups, but the Ramblers' Association described it as "absolutely staggering".

Mr Cameron's deputy, Pamela Warhurst, the Labour leader of Calderdale council, has been chosen as a figure more sympathetic to ramblers, but she is no right-to-roam activist. Harold Sculthorpe, of the Calderdale Ramblers' Association, said that she was not an active campaigner but he thought she backed their efforts to improve access to the Brontë moors in her borough.

Over the next 12 months the agency and its Welsh counterpart, the Countryside Council for Wales, will draw up draft maps showing where the statutory right would apply.

The agency and national park authorities will also be given powers to close land, or "otherwise restrict access", either permanently or temporarily. Land could be closed through breeding seasons for various species, after consultation with nature conservation and heritage bodies, as well as new local access forums.

Landowners will have discretion to close their land for up to 28 days a year, mainly for land management reasons such as heather burning or shooting, although up to 12 days could be for other reasons. But Mr Cameron will also be able to authorise the closure of land or temporary restrictions unilaterally where there are other sound land management reasons.

Land would be closed to the public where there was a risk to health and safety or where the Ministry of Defence needed to for military use.

Opposing Mr Cameron's appointment, David Beskin of the Ramblers' Association said that he was a "serial path-blocker". Other campaigners likened the move to "putting an alcoholic in charge of a pub".

In past protests, access campaigners have burnt him in effigy, and accuse him of interfering with footpaths on his farm in Ilminster, Somerset.

He has long been at the forefront of landowners' efforts to see off right to roam, and is credited with the development of the alternative doctrine of "voluntary access" that will be applied to agricultural and developed land. He is close to Tony Blair, having advised the Country Landowners' Association's 50,000 members not to fear Labour ahead of the 1997 election, and his influence is thought to have tempered government plans.

In 1996, Mr Cameron was embarrassed by the revelation that a potato crop on his farm had been planted in such a way as to block a public footpath. He went on to apologise for the measure, which he said had been an error by a farmhand.

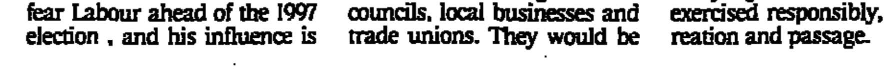
One of the more important concessions in yesterday's document was the establishment of local access forums. These will be advisory groups made up of representatives of users, landowners, managers, local councils, local businesses and trade unions. They would be established at county or National Park level and would advise on local rights of way and on proposals for closures or restrictions. The forums would put forward recommendations to the Countryside Agency for ratification.

☐ The introduction of a statutory right to roam will bring England and Wales into line with Scotland, where proposals to grant hillwalkers, mountaineers and ramblers rights of access were published last month.

Draft legislation pledges a statutory right to land and water, exercised responsibly, for recreation and passage.

SAMANTHA PRITCHARD

Ewen Cameron taking a relaxed attitude to ramblers on his Somerset farm; his sympathies, though, lie with landowners



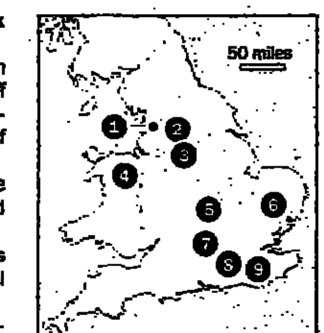
NEW REGULATIONS BRING MIXED FORTUNES FOR LANDOWNERS IN DISPUTES OVER ACCESS

1. Forest of Bowland, Lancashire
Landowner: Duke of Westminster
Dispute: Duke refuses access to fells and moors of 19,500-acre Abbeystead estate, other than access strips.
Outcome: ramblers will have statutory right to cross moorland; forests and farmland not affected.

2. Brontë moors, Lancashire and Yorkshire
Landowners: various, including Lord Savile, the Moores family, Yorkshire Water
Dispute: almost all Wuthering Heights country, apart from few paths and small area of moorland, out of bounds to walkers.
Outcome: ramblers will have statutory right to cross moorland.

3. Peak District National Park
Landowner: Yorkshire Water
Dispute: on privatisation in 1989, company fenced off 100,000 acres for grouse shooting and declared it out of bounds to public.
Outcome: ramblers will have statutory right to cross moorland and mountains.

4. Berwyn Mountains, N Wales
Landowner: Countryside Council for Wales
Dispute: walkers denied free access to 9,000 acres of upland moor for conservation and agricultural reasons, although campaigners complain much of it uncultivated land with no good reason to exclude ramblers. One right of way.
Outcome: ramblers will have statutory right to cross mountains.



5. Boughton estate, Northamptonshire
Landowner: Duke of Buccleuch
Dispute: ramblers complain wheat grown on bridleway. Duke allows access to Scottish estates.
Outcome: farmland not covered; blocking paths already not allowed.

6. Gislingham, Suffolk
Landowner: John Gooderham, farmer
Dispute: Mr Gooderham fined £500 and ordered to pay costs of £3,500 for "blatantly flouting" rights of way. Has blocked public path with manure heap.
Outcome: farmland not covered; blocking paths already not allowed.

7 Shirburn and Pyrton Hills, Oxfordshire
Landowner: Earl of Macclesfield
Dispute: ramblers not allowed to stray from public footpath crossing Beechwood estate through spectacular countryside. Earl says they scare wildlife because "they can't keep their mouths shut" and complains of litter.
Outcome: ramblers will have statutory right to cross downland.

8. Ranmore Common, Dorking, Surrey
Landowner: Adrian White, BBC Governor
Dispute: Mr White went to High Court to win right to fence off "common land". Eight public footpaths blocked off.
Outcome: ramblers will have statutory right to cross common land, but 70-year-old property agreement may make this special case.

9. Uckfield, E Sussex
Landowner: Nicholas Van Hoogstraten, property tycoon
Dispute: Mr Van Hoogstraten has erected barn, gate and barbed wire fence, with signs warning trespassers to keep out, astride public right of way across Hamilton Palace grounds.
Outcome: blocking paths already not allowed.



Another step on Labour's road to free country

By Mark Henderson

THE proposals to transform public access to the countryside announced yesterday by Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, are inspired by a cause that has long been close to the heart of the Labour movement.

The reforms, while less sweeping than many campaigners had hoped for, will start to fulfil promises to guarantee the right to roam made most forcefully by John Smith, the late Labour leader whose death in 1994 cleared the way for Tony Blair to become Prime Minister.

Mr Smith, a "Munro-bagger" who walked the Scottish hills to keep fit after his first heart attack, was a passionate advocate of the right to roam, a vice-president of the Ramblers' Association and the latest in a line of socialist politicians who have campaigned for access reform.

The first Labour Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald, was among the leading lights of the movement in the 1930s. The cause took off after the Second World War, when Labour politicians placed themselves at the forefront of moves to enshrine public access to the countryside in law.

Hugh Dalton, the Chancellor, was among those who joined a Ramblers' Association demonstration staged for the press in the Pennines in 1947, the first of its kind. Also present was the young firebrand MP Barbara Castle, who was later to influence Mr Smith's views on rambling.

Their Government then took the biggest legal strides yet towards the right to roam with the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, which provided for local access agreements with landowners and the new National Parks, with some guaranteed access.

The legislation disappointed many campaigners who had hoped for more sweeping reform. The Bill was the last piece of legislation passed by the Attlee Government; to ease its passage through the Lords ahead of the election, more radical clauses were removed in a compromise with landowners.

The fight goes on for rare Pennine view

By Paul Wilkinson
North East Correspondent

ON A clear day, they say, you can see Blackpool Tower from the 1,700ft summit of Lad Law in the Pennines.

There are not many clear days in this corner of England, but then again few people ever get the chance to look for the coast 50 miles away. Lad Law lies in the heart of Boulsworth Moor, thousands of acres of disputed territory on the Lancashire-Yorkshire border.

Much of the land is part of the Savile estate, owned by the 3rd Baron Savile; part is the estate of the Moores football pools family; and the rest is controlled by Yorkshire Water and United Utilities. Access, even to the Pennine Way, which skirts it, is restricted to a handful of rights of way.

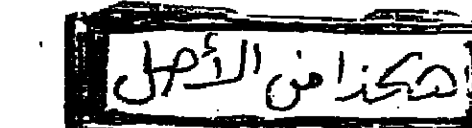
More than 40 years ago ramblers persuaded the Lancashire County Council to grant rights of access to 235 acres of moorland, opening up a ridge walk with spectacular views into the Pennine valleys. But the owners appealed to the Government and in 1956 the orders were overturned.

"It has been an ongoing seamless campaign ever since to gain access," said Harry Sculthorpe, a member of the Ramblers' Association from Hebden Bridge. "It is a wonderful place and the public should have access to it."

"In the Fifties the water authorities claimed access would pollute the water, but that's not the case now. The land owners just said it would frighten the birds they wanted to shoot."

Gwen Goddard, from Hebden Bridge, said: "Two hundred years ago this was all open common land ... The Brontës came over from Haworth and many others besides, but now set one foot off the path and you can be threatened with a trespass action."

A spokesman for North West Water, part of United Utilities, said: "People should enjoy managed access and we have opened up a circuit to the top. But the area does contain a site of special scientific interest, so we have to take care.



Surgeons condemn selling of implants

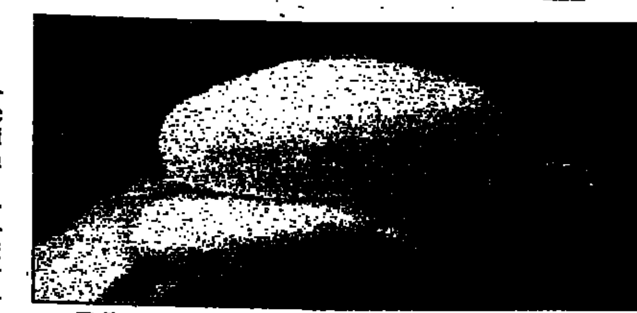
By Nigel Hawkes and Helen Rumbelow

A SURGEON yesterday complained that Trilucent, the banned breast implant, had been put on the market in "an unseemly rush".

Norman Waterhouse, a consultant plastic surgeon at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital in London, has removed four Trilucent implants from women who had problems and refuses to use them.

"One of the things that decided me against them is that we had a sample Trilucent implant from the company and it had gone rotten," he said. "After two years it smells like a chip fryer and the surface is shrivelled and wrinkled. That is after being in my drawer, let alone in a woman's chest."

Mr Waterhouse and Simon Kay, a consultant plastic surgeon at St James's University Hospital in Leeds, criticised the way Trilucent had been marketed. Mr Kay said that aggressive marketing was responsible for their use in most of the 5,000 British women who had them. "What upset me was the marketing tactics, using local radio to market Trilucent directly," Mr Kay said. "Women came in asking for it by name instead of taking the doctor's advice on what they recommended."



Trilucent: smelt like a chip fryer, one surgeon said

Derek Mercer, a consultant plastic surgeon at St Thomas' Hospital, London, said he thought there was little for women with the implants to worry about. "If they are symptom-free, that's fine. They can go to see their surgeon and get some advice if they are worried. If I saw a patient who had these implants put in . . . I would offer to remove them from her if she was worried; that's entirely reasonable."

Trilucent breast implants cost £390 each and a breast augmentation operation costs between £2,500 and £4,000. Removing the implants would cost roughly the same, assuming they were to be replaced with an alternative.

Trilucent was developed at Washington University, St Louis, when fears about silicone implants began but it is now far less popular in Britain than the type it was meant to replace. *About a tenth of the* implants were fitted by Transform Medical Group, which has 17 clinics. "Last year we did 1,700 breast implants and only 30 were Trilucent," Lindsay Bishop, of Transform, said.

Silicone has been given a new lease of life in Britain by a report published last year by the Health Department, the third such report, which said that the health fears had been exaggerated. For women still chary of silicone, implants made from a salt and sugar solution are favoured.

By 5pm yesterday Transform's helpline had received 65 calls, and the clinics had also answered calls from worried women. "If any want to see their surgeon they are being booked in immediately," Ms Bishop said. "But so far none has said that she wants the implant removed."

Mr Waterhouse believes that the side effects of Trilucent are only beginning to be realised. "More than 30 cases of problems is quite a lot out of 5,000 women who have them. It is very early days," he said. "What concerns me is the general perception that silicone is bad and everything else is great. This is played on by a lot of advertising. Women come in and say, 'My implants are so safe I could take them out and eat them.' This is a very frivolous way to talk about medical devices."

Collagen Aesthetics, which was the distributor of the implants, said: "Clinical data shows that Trilucent has a very good safety profile and patient records and follow-ups to date confirm overall patient satisfaction." The company said that 11,000 women in Europe had the implants.

Dr Stuttaford, page 16

SIMON BROOKS-WEBB



Elaine Coomber, who regretted the day she had surgery

'Safe alternative' left woman with 4 years of pain

By Helen Rumbelow

A WOMAN who had her silicone breast implants replaced with Trilucent, believing it to be the safe alternative, has experienced four years of crippling pain.

Elaine Coomber, 53, had small silicone implants inserted when she was 29 in order to give her breasts some uplift and to look better in clothes. By her late forties they had ruptured, leaving her in great pain and with several health complications as a result.

Mrs Coomber, of Hextable, Kent, regretted the day she had breast surgery, but because the operation to remove the silicone would also remove most of her remaining breast tissue, she was advised to have another pair of implants.

Reluctantly she decided to undergo the operation but she was determined to be given the safest material on the market. She wanted to avoid the troubles she had in the past and to minimise the risk of breast cancer now that she was getting older. At the Transform Medical Group they told her that Trilucent was ideal, she said. "They said there was an identification disc in every implant so it could be tracked, and also that it wouldn't obscure X-rays so it allowed earlier tumour detection."

After preparing for the ordeal of the operation, which cost her £4,000 in 1995, she expected soreness for the first few months. However, the tenderness deteriorated into severe pain, and during the past four years her breasts have become red and inflamed.

"These implants have not reacted well with my body, but that's my individual case and I'd be very dismayed if women panicked and thought all of them were dangerous," Mrs Coomber said.

"However, my advice to anyone considering having implants would be 'don't'. Surely Trilucent is good enough warning. They said it was safe and now they say it could be a problem. But it's too late once you've had it done."

Gay doctor 'was forced to quit brain unit'

By Russell Jenkins, North West Correspondent

A MAN was forced out of his senior post at a brain injury unit because he was homosexual, an employment tribunal was told yesterday.

Nicholas Priestley, a neuropsychologist, is claiming constructive dismissal from his post as clinical director of Highbank Brain Injury Unit, a private clinic in Bury, near Manchester, on the grounds of harassment due to his sexuality. He says that over the three years that he worked there, he was put under huge pressure to conceal his sexuality and was excluded from social activities based at the hospital.

Laura Cox, QC, counsel for Dr Priestley, told the three-man panel in Manchester that his client had experienced increasing hostility from senior management. She said that management had undermined his authority by withdrawing his secretarial staff without reason. He had also spoken up for two homosexual members of staff at a meeting and later found that his conduct was investigated.

Dr Priestley had a heart attack and while he was recovering there was a restructuring of management at the unit that left his position diminished, amounting to a breach of his contract.

Mrs Cox is expected to argue at the hearing that the treatment meted out to Dr Priestley, 45, contrasted markedly with that given to a lesbian employee, allegedly treated "much more favourably".

The case was adjourned unti today to let the panel read the extensive documentation. The unit's owners, Westminster Health Care, will contest the claims.

It is seen by homosexual rights activists as an important test case.

Mowlam gives nurses a tonic

The Minister prescribed popular remedies when she attended their congress, reports **Ian Murray**

THE only Cabinet minister who could be guaranteed to bring nurses cheering and clapping to their feet dropped in on their annual congress yesterday. Mo Mowlam's appearance was announced at the last moment and she turned in a virtuoso performance that left the 2,500 delegates happy about new Labour.

The Northern Ireland Secretary flew by helicopter to Harrogate from Dublin, where only two hours earlier she had been signing treaties to bring peace nearer.

For security reasons, her visit, planned at the Labour Party conference last September, was such a well-kept secret that the Royal College of Nursing congress discovered the identity of the "senior government minister" who was to address them only seconds before she appeared. Delegates filing into the hall, who had been grumbling about pay and conditions and threatening to boo the Government's speaker, audibly sucked in their breath in amazement and jumped to their feet in delight as the Minister arrived theatrically on stage. The congress, which last year jeered Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, gave her a standing ovation.

"It's an honour to be here," Dr Mowlam said. "Nurses are people who work at the hard face year in and year out. It's crucial we acknowledge you."

She asked nurses from Northern Ireland to raise their hands so that they could be cheered. "What they do is what everybody else here does, with the additional problem they can be faced with a tragedy in an inhuman and barbaric form," she said.

Having flattered everyone, it was easy for her to broach the subject that led to Mr Dobson being booed a year earlier: pay. Despite this year's 12 per cent rise for newly qualified nurses and the above-inflation rise of 4.7 per cent for all other grades, most nurses are dissatisfied with the new pay levels.

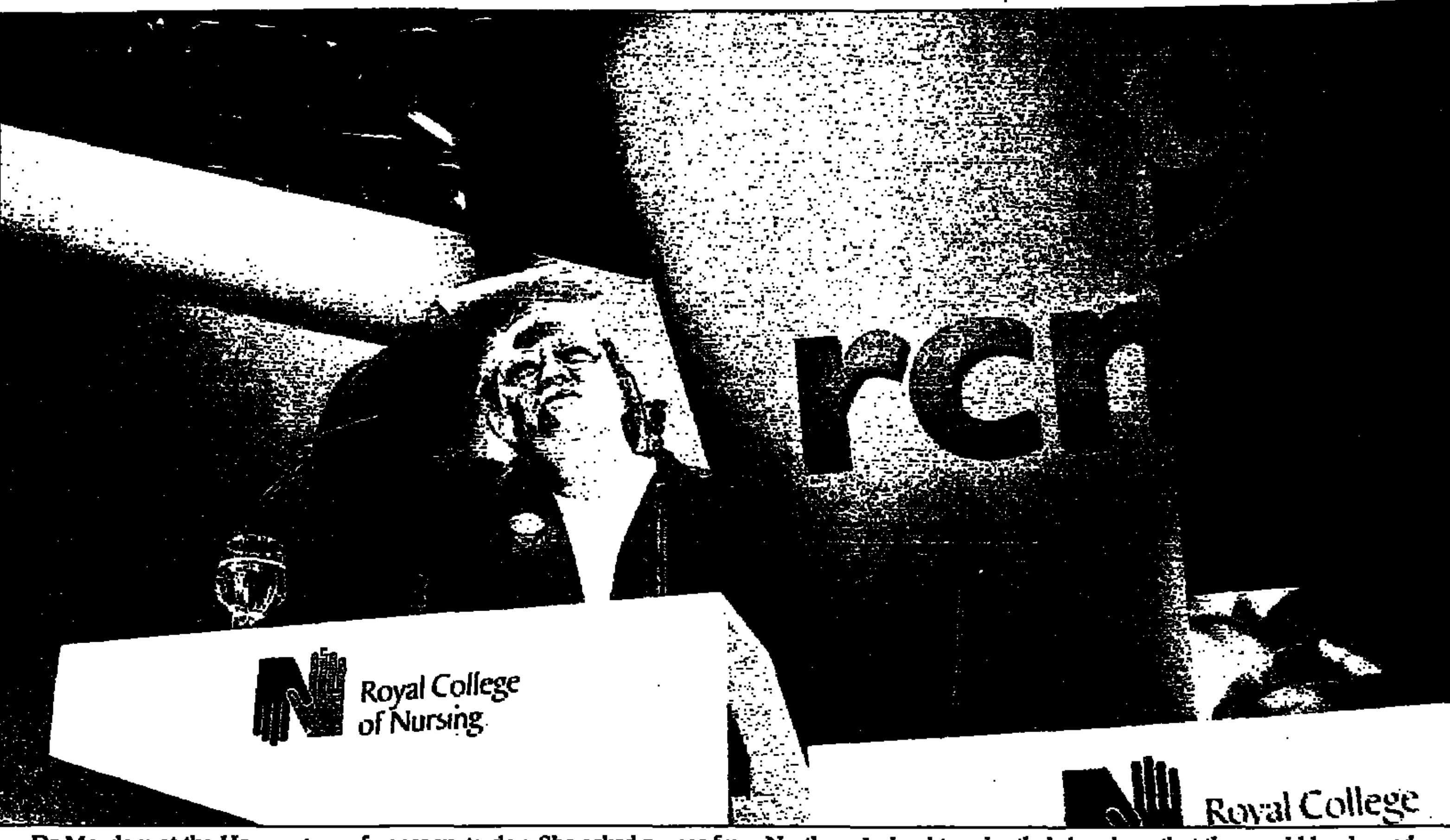
The increases mean that a staff nurse with five years or more experience will receive only £15 a week more, less tax, than the junior nurse she is required to teach. Government recruitment programmes have yet to overcome this disincentive to rejoin the NHS. The college says it has evidence that hospitals are even saving money on the newly qualified nurses by recruiting nursing auxiliaries instead.

Dr Mowlam tackled the pay problem head on and probably not in a way that would be approved by Gordon Brown or Mr Dobson ("We call him 'Dobbo' in the Cabinet," she confided). "I get very frustrated when people say that we talk about modernising the health service and improving the pay of nurses and they tell us we can't do both. Paying nurses is an investment in patient care in a way that most other things isn't." In deference to Mr Brown, Dr Mowlam eventually added: "We must strike a balance. Pay for nurses must be fair but avoidable ... I mean affordable," she said through the audience's laughter. The fact that the Government had accepted the independent pay review in full proved that it was serious about helping them, she said. She listed other promises, including an end to short-term contracts, a clampdown on violence in hospitals, more prescribing powers for nurses and family-friendly working conditions.

The Minister's security staff whisked her away while delegates were still on their feet applauding. Christine Hancock, the college's general secretary, said afterwards: "Mo Mowlam did a great job in making people feel better about themselves and about nursing. There are shortages and pressures and people are feeling down. But Mo Mowlam has made us all feel good today."

MISSING MAN

Frank Dobson's office refused to say where he was yesterday. The Health Secretary said that Mo Mowlam was responsible for health in Northern Ireland and had addressed the congress "with my full, enthusiastic support".



Dr Mowlam at the Harrogate conference yesterday. She asked nurses from Northern Ireland to raise their hands so that they could be cheered



New and old designs on show at Harrogate yesterday

Safety first in revamp of a starchy image

By Ian Murray

BELTS, buckles and hats are out: pleated skirts, culottes and polo shirts are in, according to new guidelines for nurses' uniforms launched by the Royal College of Nursing yesterday.

Traditional uniforms restricted movements, nurses said, and made it difficult to handle patients. This increased the risk of twisting or dropping them.

The Royal College of Nursing's ideal uniforms, largely developed by students who do not want to spend their working lives in the old-style garments, are designed for easy movement.

Dresses have pleats and shoulder vents; modern fabrics that can stretch are preferred to cottons and linens, although Lycra is not suitable because it cannot be washed at high enough temperatures to kill infections.

While allowing unrestricted movement, the clothes are still designed to project a professional image, the RCN said. This is proving one of the more difficult areas to reach agreement on because hospitals aim to promote a corporate identity while the nurses' highest priority is a uniform that helps the public to recognise and trust them. Some patients are intimidated by any uniform, feeling it represents unwelcome authority.

Each hospital decides the uniform that its staff will wear and most nowadays accept casual, often brightly coloured, clothing as both more comfortable and practical than the traditional starched and bonneted style that is still to be found in smaller hospitals, especially in the private sector. The new guidelines make it clear that low necklines and short skirts are inappropriate. Clothes have to be cut so that it is possible for nurses "to adopt any posture, such as bending or reaching, without compromising their dignity or causing offence to the patient".

Shoes should be non-slip and provide support. Sandals and clogs are frowned upon. No jewellery should be worn and the best way of giving the uniform a corporate identity is to have badges embroidered on them.

The RCN began campaigning for more comfortable clothing at its congress a year ago. Members hope the designs they have developed will convince the small number of hospitals still using traditional uniforms to come up to date.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mother's fire rescue praised

A mother was praised by fire officers yesterday after she saved her seven children from a house fire by dropping them from a first-floor window into the arms of neighbours.

Firemen said that Joanne Winterbottom, 28, did the right things when she woke to discover that her semi-detached home in New Moston, Manchester, was ablaze. She threw out a mattress to prevent injury to the children, aged from six weeks to nine years. They suffered slight injuries from smoke inhalation but were otherwise unhurt.

Tube strike off

The RMT union decided against holding a strike on London Underground next week. The union, which opposes privatising the network, is to ballot its 7,000 Tube members before deciding on other industrial action.

Stabbing death

A 25-year-old psychiatric patient who disappeared while on day release from a mental health unit in Isleworth, northwest London, was being questioned after a man aged 50 was stabbed to death and a woman was attacked.

Royal choice

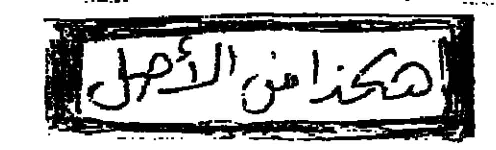
Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones are to be married by the Bishop of Norwich, the Right Rev Peter Nott, Buckingham Palace said. The wedding, at St George's Chapel, Windsor, on Saturday, June 19, will take place at 5pm.

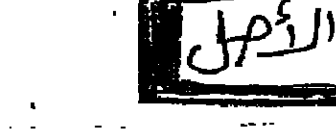
E coli patients

Eleven people are still in hospital after the outbreak of *E. coli* poisoning in west Cumbria. Three children are undergoing kidney treatment at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Newcastle. All patients are in a stable condition.

Saved by mud

Ray Carter, from Dartmouth, Devon, escaped with bruises after being run over by his two-ton dumper truck. Its front wheels pushed his chest and shoulders into the soggy soil after he was catapulted from the driver's seat.





Bible rewritten after half a millennium

Royal calligrapher includes ideas from other faiths, write Eve-Ann Prentice and Simon de Bruxelles

THE QUEEN'S calligrapher has been commissioned by an American university to produce the first new illuminated Bible for 500 years.

Writing with goose quills on the finest vellum, as did medieval monks, Donald Jackson, 61, will take six years to complete the 1,150-page manuscript. He will have a little help from 20th-century technology, however: computers will be used to lay out the pages and position each letter before he and his team of calligraphers set quill to calfskin.

The £1.9 million commission from St John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, is one of the largest undertaken by a calligrapher since the invention of printing. As if the challenge was not already big enough, he is also risking the wrath of God-fearing folk of all persuasions by attempting to encompass many faiths and cultures in his illustrations.

Mr Jackson is currently working on a full-page piece for St Matthew's Gospel that shows a Jewish menorah surrounded by Arabic symbols and intertwined spirals suggestive of DNA molecules. "The menorah is a powerful Jewish image and I am using it as a graphic designer," he said. "I am likely to be seriously upsetting some people, but this Bible should be inclusive.

"No one has hand written the Bible who knows what the world looks like from the sky, who has seen a thermal image of the Earth taken from a satellite — and all this is being reflected in the work."



The styles of lettering and illustration that Mr Jackson has developed for his Bible

Mr Jackson has had plenty of practice in creating irreplaceable manuscripts. Since the mid-1960s he has been one of two Queen's Scribes, responsible for writing the letters patent that go to each new peer of the realm.

The Bible, which will be produced using handmade inks, pigments and gold leaf, is being paid for by St John's, a Roman Catholic university run by Benedictine monks.

The university was established in the 1850s at the same time as the neighbouring Benedictine Abbey. It has 1,700 students and a library that houses the world's largest collection of medieval manuscripts on microfilm. The completed Bible, which will be retained by the abbey, will be worth at least £1 million. When asked about his fee, Mr Jackson replied: "The honest answer is . . . not enough."

Mr Jackson works from a studio in his home, an imaginatively converted village hall in what used to form part of the estate owned by Charles Rolls, the car manufacturer wo partnered Henry Royce, in Hendre, Monmouth.

The son of a Lancashire bicycle repair shop owner, Mr Jackson was raised as a Methodist but is no longer a churchgoer. "I had never read the Bible all the way through," he admits, "and now the more I go into this the more my personal relationship with the words changes.

"The problem is that you are looking at this huge history and it is the first time in 500 years that the Bible has been tackled in this way. The last time was in Germany at the end of the 15th century."

The monks who commissioned the project have seen some of Jackson's early work and, according to their superior, it has provoked intense debate. "I am told they have never talked about the Bible so much," he says.

Mr Jackson says he has absolute artistic freedom, but that the university has an ultimate right of veto. It has so far shown no sign of using it.

"My job is to do something for people that they would never have thought of asking for but, when they see it, is absolutely everything they could have dreamt of," he said.

Mr Jackson has devised a new lettering style for the work, which will fill seven volumes. The text will be the English-language New Revised Standard Version, though Mr Jackson admits that he feels "a slight tug at the heartstrings that it's not King James".

Although Mr Jackson has always loved his art — at the age of 13 he won a scholarship to art school where he specialised in calligraphy, lettering and bookbinding — his everyday handwriting is "beautiful but illegible", according to his wife, Mabel. This, however, is one criticism that fails to perturb him. "Handwriting is to calligraphy what singing in the bath is to appearing solo at Covent Garden," he said.



Mr Jackson's home studio. "I had never read the Bible all the way through," he said

First, catch your goose...

WRITING with a quill on parchment still produces the finest calligraphy, according to Michael Gullick, an authority on traditional writing materials. Making a goose quill pen is easy, he says, as long as a few guidelines are observed.

1 Catch your goose, or even better pick up a discarded feather. Pinion feathers from the wings are best.

2 Allow it to cure for a couple of years or, if impatient, try "dutching" [illegible] the feathers and cut the end from the quill to make a hollow tube [illegible] long. Heat [illegible] of fine sand [illegible] Plunge the quill into the hot sand at an oblique angle allowing the sand to enter the barrel. Remove after 15-20 seconds.

3 While the quill is still soft, make two scooped cuts to form a sharp point. Cut the nib to the desired angle and cut a slit up from the nib.

4 When the quill has cooled it will be as hard as a fingernail and ready to use. Dip quill into suitable ink. The finest is Chinese made from carbon and gum arabic and comes in hard sticks ready to be mixed with water.

5 Place your parchment at an angle and hold the quill as close to horizontal as possible.

6 Don't forget to blot.

Raw material for fine calligraphy

Greer joins protest at British Library

Party for new book cancelled to support strikers, reports **Alex O'Connell**

GERMAINE GREER chose solidarity over sales last night when she supported striking workers at the British Library by cancelling the party to be held there to launch her latest book, *The Whole Woman*.

The decision by Professor Greer, who has been a reader at the library since 1964, cheered more than 100 library assistants who picketed the new building at St Pancras, Central London, in protest at health and safety conditions in the basements. The library is likely to be closed for a week unless agreement is reached.

In a statement last night Professor Greer said: "Authors and publishers alike rely upon the services of library staff for research and editorial purposes or for protection of authors' and publishers' rights. Mismanagement at the British Library affects everyone involved in the trade of letters.

"When staff are overworked, the systems in place are inappropriate and morale is low, the necessary collaboration between readers and library workers is compromised and distorted. The British Library is the most important collection of books in the world; it is time the British Library management proved itself worthy to be in charge of it."

Transworld, her publisher, said it was "greatly disappointed" that the party would not be going ahead. A spokeswoman added: "We feel it would be unfair to ask our guests to cross the picket line. Germaine Greer herself has long links with the library."

The Public and Commercial Services union said that the picketers had had no intention of breaking up the celebrations, but that they were glad of Professor Greer's support. A spokesman said: "We hope this will help us get back to the negotiating table and persuade management to help us find a way forward."

The architect of the library said yesterday that he was "baffled" by the dispute over working conditions in the building's storerooms four floors below ground level, which forced the closure of the reading rooms yesterday.

Professor Sir Colin St John Wilson stood by his designs. "It sounds to me like a labour relations exercise rather than anything to do with the fabric of the building," he said. "I've had members of staff say to me that they could not wait to get in there."

According to Sir Colin, when the plans were being prepared the layout was fully discussed with staff representatives and there was, he said, no disagreement whatsoever. "There was provision made for a restaurant above ground so that the periods below ground would be broken up. The heating and lighting should be good down there, unless the system isn't being monitored by the staff.

"There was a huge document there for consultation. If people disagreed with elements of the design, a completely restructured version would be made, costed and agreed."

The only difference between the British Library's basements and most other offices was lack of view, he said. "But there is now a lot of 'deep office space' where you can be on the 18th floor of a building and you still don't get a view out, especially in the City.

"I would say that if you worked in the British Library you are probably much better off than those working in 'deep office space'."

Sir Colin also said that he would be surprised and saddened if any serious argument was being made about the design. He knew nothing of a health and safety report mentioned by one worker that reportedly found 37 areas for improvement. He said: "Absolutely nothing has been passed on to me. I just know that the conditions are of a different class from what they were in the British Museum."

Sir Colin St John Wilson, the architect: baffled at the protest



Pickets outside the British Library yesterday, protesting over health and safety conditions in the new building

Dark days are just not natural

By Alex O'Connell

MOST of us need full spectrum light, which can only be gained from natural light, to stay psychologically healthy.

According to Cary Cooper, Professor at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Psychology, illnesses such as seasonal affective disorder are most likely to hit those who work in conditions without access to natural light. "Light deficiency will affect people's moods and there is likely to be less interaction between colleagues when they work underground," Professor Cooper said.

"Sometimes working underground can create a camaraderie between colleagues but it is usually only short term, like during wartime."

Professor Cooper admitted that in some instances it could be the culture of the organisation that was as much at fault as the physical working conditions. But he said that lack of light often aggravated the situation.

It is a problem for those in a variety of sectors. The work of "fluffers", the night-workers who scoured the London Underground for passengers' hair, is these days done by cleaning-trains, but drivers, mechanics and station assistants still spend up to eight hours at a time underground. Although meal breaks allow staff to rise to the surface, London Underground said that a lot of the staff chose to eat in cavernous staffrooms.

A rather more glamorous setting than a Tube station, the Arches nightclub in Glasgow, is located in the railway arches below Central Station. Staff say that they sometimes work for 48 hours without catching a ray of natural light. "I try to make a concerted effort to get out to eat, but sometimes I get into work at 6pm and stay here until 6am, go home and sleep and get up after dark," Tiernan Kelly, projects officer, said. "In the winter months we get tired but after a while you don't notice it."

London's sewerage network, mainly built in Victorian times, is maintained and repaired by 49 "flushers". The drainage tunnels' brickwork and blockages are checked by


Mining: 48-hour week without natural light

workers wading waist-high. The worst side of the job, according to Thames Water, is chiselling out solidified cooking fat, particularly prevalent under Leicester Square. Flushers, who work in teams for safety reasons, earn about £16,000 a year and work from 7.30am until 3.40pm.

Today there are just 17 working mines in England and Wales. Miners are allowed to work 48 hours a week underground; manual workers can stay down no longer than eight hours on a night shift. Those figures include showering time and time taken to travel to the pit.

Although conditions have improved, miners still get illnesses such as miners' lung. Temperatures can be painfully high.

CORRECTIONS

A Home Office study on homicide rates, reported on August 9, 1998, wrongly suggested that Geneva was especially unsafe. In fact it is among the safest of the world's cities, with a homicide rate between 1995 and 1997 of 1.23 per 100,000 population.

☐ Josef Mengele did not make postwar visits to Europe on a Red Cross passport (report, February 17). Mengele, using a false name and identity card, tricked the International Committee of the Red Cross into issuing a travel document for one journey only.

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Ingham is bound over after car row

By Richard Duce

SIR BERNARD INGHAM agreed to be bound over keep the peace for a year yesterday after a decade-long feud with neighbours ended in a court appearance.

Baroness Thatcher's former media adviser said after the case that he had agreed to pay almost £800 to Barry and Linda Cripps for damage to their car but wanted an apology from them. A charge of criminal damage against him was withdrawn after he agreed to be bound over in the sum of £1,000 by magistrates in Croydon, South London.

They were told that Sir Bernard, 66, had kicked the door of the Crippses' silver Mercedes as Mr Cripps, 45, reversed into his garage along a disputed right of way behind Sir Bernard's bungalow in Purley, South London, last December.

Julius Capon, for the prosecution, said that when Mrs Cripps, 33, later remonstrated with Sir Bernard about damage to the car, he replied: "Good, I'm glad".

He gave police "uncharacteristically vague and confused accounts of what took place", Mr Capon said. While accepting that he might have banged on the car, he denied kicking it. A bind-over and withdrawal of the criminal damage charge was the preferred method of dealing with the case.

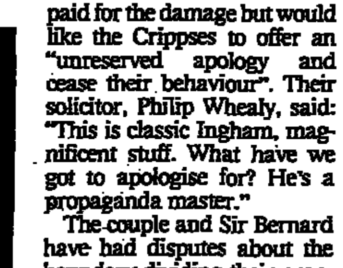
Asked by a magistrate, Ray Dann, if he agreed to be bound over, Sir Bernard nodded. "Is that a yes?" Mr Dann asked. Sir Bernard uttered his one word during the 15-minute hearing: "Yes".

Mr Dann replied: "You are bound over in the sum of £1,000 to keep the peace and be of good behaviour for the next 12 months. If you fail to keep the peace, you could be required to pay that money." A binding over is not a criminal conviction.

Sir Bernard, accompanied by Lady Ingham, said outside the court: "I'd like to thank those people who have written to me and telephoned me to support me. I'm absolutely satisfied that I could not have caused the damage complained of, but to resolve the issue I have accepted advice that I should agree to be bound over. I have, of course, considered myself to be bound to observe the law for the whole of my 66 years. I venture to suggest that if others had sought to observe and uphold the law as I have done, magistrates' courts would be out of business."

He said later that he had paid for the damage but would like the Crippses to offer an "unreserved apology and cease their behaviour". Their solicitor, Philip Whealy, said: "This is classic Ingham, magnificent stuff. What have we got to apologise for? He's a propaganda master."

The couple and Sir Bernard have had disputes about the boundary dividing their properties and plans by the Cripps for a loft conversion and a garden house for their three children. Mrs Cripps, an airline stewardess, said: "We are very weary of the constant bombardment we have suffered."



Sir Bernard: denied damage but paid bill



JACK DABAGHIAN SIMON WALKER

Alber Elbaz, designer of Yves Saint Laurent's ready-to-wear collection, appears with a model after the show, which included this fuchsia creation

Saint Laurent in safe but nervous hands

From Lisa Armstrong, Fashion Editor, in Paris

IT WAS never going to be easy succeeding Yves Saint Laurent. No wonder that Alber Elbaz, trained by the American designer Geoffrey Beene and chosen by Pierre Bergé — Saint Laurent's business partner, former lover and Svengali — admitted to being "a nervous wreck before the show".

At least that's something he has in common with Saint Laurent, whom Bergé once described as having been "born with a nervous breakdown". This was the first ready-to-wear collection for the house not designed by Saint Laurent in 40 years. It contains many remixes of his greatest hits. "He has had total creative control," Bergé said backstage. Nevertheless the 37-year-old Israeli-born Elbaz had clearly divined that his freedom lies within clearly defined parameters.

Out trooped the one-sleeved top, one in sequins, another knitted and fastened with leather ties; the shirt-waisters in orange satin; the knee breeches; the leg o'mutton sleeves; even the buckled, square-toed shoes that Catherine Deneuve wore in *Belle du Jour*. Inevitably a couple of the unfortunate models (including Stella Tennant) had to come out in a reworked see-through shirt. Elbaz might have done better to leave some of them in the archives.

Perhaps the best that can be said is that Elbaz managed to make the YSL classic look different. Some of this was achieved by cartoon-like exaggeration. The sleeves and shoulders on some of the fox fur jackets look eight feet wide. Elsewhere he did it with styling tricks, such as leather head scarves.

As for the legendary YSL colour mixes, Elbaz stuck to black, white and splashes of head-to-toe fuchsia or mushy-pea green. It wasn't enough to win an ovation but at least Elbaz has sparked some genuine interest.

Meanwhile, Naomi Campbell looked a trifle glum at Louis Vuitton yesterday, her first catwalk appearance since her rumoured tiff with Donatella Versace prevented her from appearing at the Versace show in Milan last week.

School bans PE in effort to boost GCSEs

By John O'Leary
Education Editor

A HEAD teacher is defying the law by banning a quarter of his school's GCSE candidates from games lessons in an attempt to improve poor examination results.

Roger Leighton, the head of Sydney Russell School in Dagenham, East London, has told 70 teenagers that they must attend "enrichment" lessons when the rest of the year have physical education. The school recorded the worst results in the borough last year, only 15 per cent managing five high-grade GCSE passes.

The pupils selected for an extra 100 minutes a week of English, mathematics and science are all expected to do well in next term's examinations. Some have complained about the plan but Mr Leighton is refusing to back down. "I know some students have not been happy about missing PE. They wrote me a letter about this, setting out their points in a sensible and logical way, and I have listened to their arguments. But I am not budging on the basic point."

Mr Leighton is hoping to arrange some sporting activity after school to compensate for the lost lessons. "I am a supporter of PE. We have a leisure centre on site and an excellent PE department. But I am not willing to take any chances at all with this year group, which is why we have made some very tough decisions."

The initiative contravenes the national curriculum, which includes weekly physical education for all pupils. A spokeswoman for the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority said there would be an investigation if the school appeared to be flouting the law.

Kevin Gilliver, the chief executive of the Physical Education Association, said: "Our view would be that it is an awful step to take. We want to be considering the health of the nation. The pupils might be getting out of the habit of being physically active. The head teacher might say that the pupils can still do physical education outside of school hours, but will they?"

Child criminals as young as 10 may be tagged

Straw urged to extend electronic curfew to deal with increase in offenders, writes Richard Ford

CHILD offenders as young as ten could be electronically tagged under proposals by the Youth Justice Board to deal with the rising number of young criminals.

Latest estimates presented to Jack Straw show that the number of youngsters aged between ten and 17 held in secure accommodation is forecast to rise from 2,711 last year to 4,275 by 2002-2003, according to a report yesterday.

The board also recommends that young male and female offenders should share the same secure accommodation as long as staffing levels are high and the females are not in a small minority. The board, chaired by Lord Warner, formerly policy adviser to Mr Straw, recommends that tagging could be used for offenders as young as ten to reduce pressure on secure accommodation. Youngsters would be released into the community subject to a curfew monitored by the tags.

Juvenile offenders would be released early on a tagging scheme as a reward for good behaviour, the Board's first report to the Home Secretary said.

Lord Warner said: "Tagging is much more well developed than it was five years ago and it is seen much more as a viable option available to the courts. It is possible to link tagging with human supervision and it is a way of avoiding incarceration."

The report also suggests extending to juvenile offenders the home detention curfew under which inmates serving short sentences leave prison early. It sets out a blueprint for a complete overhaul of juvenile jails in which there would be a mixture of units provided by the Prison Service, private security firms, and venture capitalists such as Prime Life who are apparently planning to build five secure units each holding 48 youngsters.

But the board's ambitious plans for child jails holding a total of 100 youngsters in living units of a maximum of eight each contrast sharply with Prison Service plans.

Lord Warner's paper is critical of the service's plans to keep up to 400 youngsters in single establishments and said it doubted they could be successful in helping to prevent reoffending. The Prison Service is planning to develop a separate juvenile prison estate out of the existing young offender institutions.

The report gives no details about costings or whether the Treasury would meet a bill running into hundreds of millions of pounds. However, it publishes figures showing that the privately run Medway Secure training centre which houses 40 teenage offenders in small units costs £2,400 per inmate per week compared with £340 a week in a Prison Service establishment.

Last night penal reform groups gave warning of the difficulties of tagging children as young as ten and of holding male and female teenage offenders together.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said: "Tagging ten year olds is unlikely to work because their behaviour is a consequence of ill-disciplined parents and it will be the parents who will have to impose discipline to police the tag."

He said he hoped that sex education as well as dealing with offending behaviour would be on the curriculum in units holding male and female teenage offenders.

The Prison Service last night dismissed Lord Warner's proposals as "aspirations".

Jail fails to learn murder lessons

PRISON staff ignored alarm calls at a jail where four years ago a prisoner was beaten to death when warning lights went unanswered, a highly critical report says today.

Sir David Ramsbotham, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, tested the cell call system at Chelmsford jail and found that no staff responded. In 1994 Christopher Edwards was battered to death in a cell he shared with Richard Linford, a paranoid schizophrenic. Edwards pressed the alarm but it failed to sound because a matchstick had jammed a button and a warning light went unheeded by prison staff.

In an unannounced inspection last October, Sir David tested the call system on three separate occasions. "We found it was working but that staff failed to answer any of the cell calls we made. This was totally unacceptable." Sir David says. "I am staggered that, in view of what has happened, and of which staff allegedly were ashamed, it should still be the case."

The prison, which holds about 460 inmates, was declared in need of special managerial attention after Sir David described it as "dreadful" in 1996. His latest report says that no member of staff nor anyone with responsibility for it in the Prison Service should feel proud. He intends to make an emergency reinspection within 12 months.

Richard Tilt, the Director-General of the Prison Service, said he was concerned about the failure. Strict instructions about responding had been issued and a new system was being installed to improve monitoring of calls and cut the risk of vandalism by prisoners.



George Robertson: said improving the capability of European forces was a primary concern, though there would also have to be structural changes

Robertson comes to defence of Europe

Peter Riddell on the minister deploying all his skills to work out the future of 'credible European armed forces'

WHENEVER the subject of European defence is raised, alarm bells start ringing in Washington and among sceptics. Is Nato being undermined? Are national identities to be submerged in a European Army? Will British troops be sent into action on the orders of foreigners? Definitely not says George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, who is trying to put substance behind the idea.

He notes that it was Michael Portillo, his Tory predecessor, who helped to launch the European Security and Defence Identity at a summit in Berlin in 1995. Discussions will intensify this year, starting in London this week and at the Nato summit in Washington next month.

Mr Robertson himself has unquestioned Atlanticist and European credentials — fighting unilateralism in the early 1980s and taking over as Labour's European spokesman in 1984 when the party was still committed to withdrawal.

Nonetheless, he admits that the Franco-British declaration at St Malo three months ago that Europe "must have the capacity for autonomous action, backed up by credible forces" did generate fears in Washington about a separate European caucus. An immediate campaign was mounted to reassure the Americans that the aim was to back up Nato in situations where they might not wish to commit ground troops.

The Americans, Mr Robertson argues, "have wanted burden-sharing with the Europeans contributing more, but, at the same time, they have been worried that we Europeans are undermining our commitment to Nato." The US is "uncomfortable as the only superpower". The latest initiative originates both in developments in the EU on foreign and security policy (notably the appointment this summer of a "high representative" responsible for foreign policy) and in the realisation that, in any military intervention on the ground in Kosovo, Europe would be on its own.

> 'The US is uncomfortable as the only superpower'

Mr Robertson's main priority is to improve capability. Relatively few of the 2.5 million forces in Europe can be deployed at short notice. Only a small number of the 7,000 combat aircraft are capable of precision bombing. Many of Europe's forces are still organised to fight the Warsaw Pact.

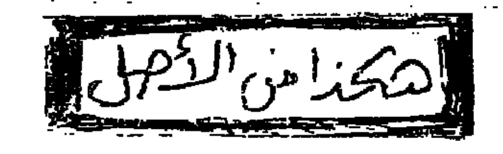
However, Mr Robertson believes big changes are under way among a new generation of defence ministers in France, Germany and Italy. The Bundestag has agreed to deploy 6,000 German troops to the Balkans rather than the 2,800 originally suggested. The French are moving towards more professional armed forces which will be more deployable. Mr Robertson naturally claims that last year's Strategic Defence Review in Britain points the way with the expansion of heavy-lift capability, both with new aircraft and ships.

The aim is "to get to a crisis before it becomes a calamity". He is also keen to simplify existing multinational forces — such as the allied rapid reaction force under British command, British-Dutch amphibious forces, the Euro-Corps involving France, Germany and the Benelux countries, and the German-Danish-Polish group. Mr Robertson notes that 1,000 French troops have been in Macedonia as part of the "extraction force" (in case the monitors need to be evacuated from Kosovo in a hurry) and a French general has worked in the Nato command and control structure. France is, he says, "coming back closer to Nato".

Although capability comes first, structures will have to change: the EU, the Western European Union and Nato have overlapping memberships. Various options exist, such as merging the EU and WEU (which would cause most alarm in Washington); reinforcing WEU to make it capable of military operations; or putting the political arm of WEU into the EU and leaving the military side under Nato under strengthened European capability.

The strengthening of European defence is also a way in which the Blair Government can demonstrate its broader commitment to the EU even though it is outside the single currency. Mr Robertson and Robin Cook are discussing the issues with Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrats' foreign and defence spokesman. The two parties largely agree on European security and the initiative is partly to show, in Mr Robertson's words, "how far the Tories have retreated from the Portillo position".

But as the close British-American co-operation over Iraq shows, the Blair Government is far from committing itself wholly to a European approach. The transatlantic balancing act will continue.



War crimes threat for Milosevic

Blair singles out Yugoslav leader for trial if Kosovo atrocities are repeated, Michael Evans writes

TONY BLAIR gave a clear warning yesterday to President Milosevic, the Yugoslav leader, that if there are any more atrocities in Kosovo he will be held accountable for suspected war crimes.

The warning was the first time that a Western leader has deliberately singled out Mr Milosevic for possible war crimes charges if the Serb forces under his command committed further atrocities.

Unlike Radovan Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb President who was indicted — but not yet arrested — for war crimes committed during the conflict in Bosnia, Mr Milosevic has not been included on the wanted list of suspected war criminals.

However, Mr Blair said that, in the crucial period leading up to renewed peace negotiations in France, "President Milosevic and his commanders must . . . understand that Nato will not stand by in the face of renewed repression in Kosovo or atrocities like the one we witnessed at Racak", where 45 ethnic Albanians were slaughtered. The Prime Minister added: "Nor can the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague."

After the Racak massacre, Belgrade refused to allow Louise Arbour, the chief investigator at the tribunal, to enter Kosovo to begin inquiries.

Mr Blair's spokesman said that the Prime Minister had deliberately named the Yugoslav leader in his reference to war crimes in Kosovo to put maximum pressure on him to keep his forces under control.

Although Mr Milosevic has voiced defiance over Nato's threats to launch airstrikes, any move to indict him as a war criminal could pose a big threat to his political future.

Speaking at a conference at the Royal United Services Institute in London to mark next month's 50th anniversary of Nato, Mr Blair said the alliance was determined not to repeat the early mistakes in Bosnia when the United Nations was carrying out humanitarian assistance, while the fighting was going on.

"In Kosovo . . . we will not allow war to devastate a part of our continent, bringing untold death, suffering and homelessness," he said. Nor would Nato accept "prevarication" at the peace talks which are set to begin next Monday at Evreux in Normandy. "No side can be allowed to obstruct the process," he said.

As he was speaking, Mr Milosevic issued a statement in Belgrade that he would never approve the deployment of any foreign troops in Kosovo to implement a peace deal.

However, Mr Blair said: "The Balkans are littered with agreements that are signed but not implemented. To make an agreement work, to bring stability in Kosovo, an international force is an indispensable element. Only Nato is equipped to lead it."

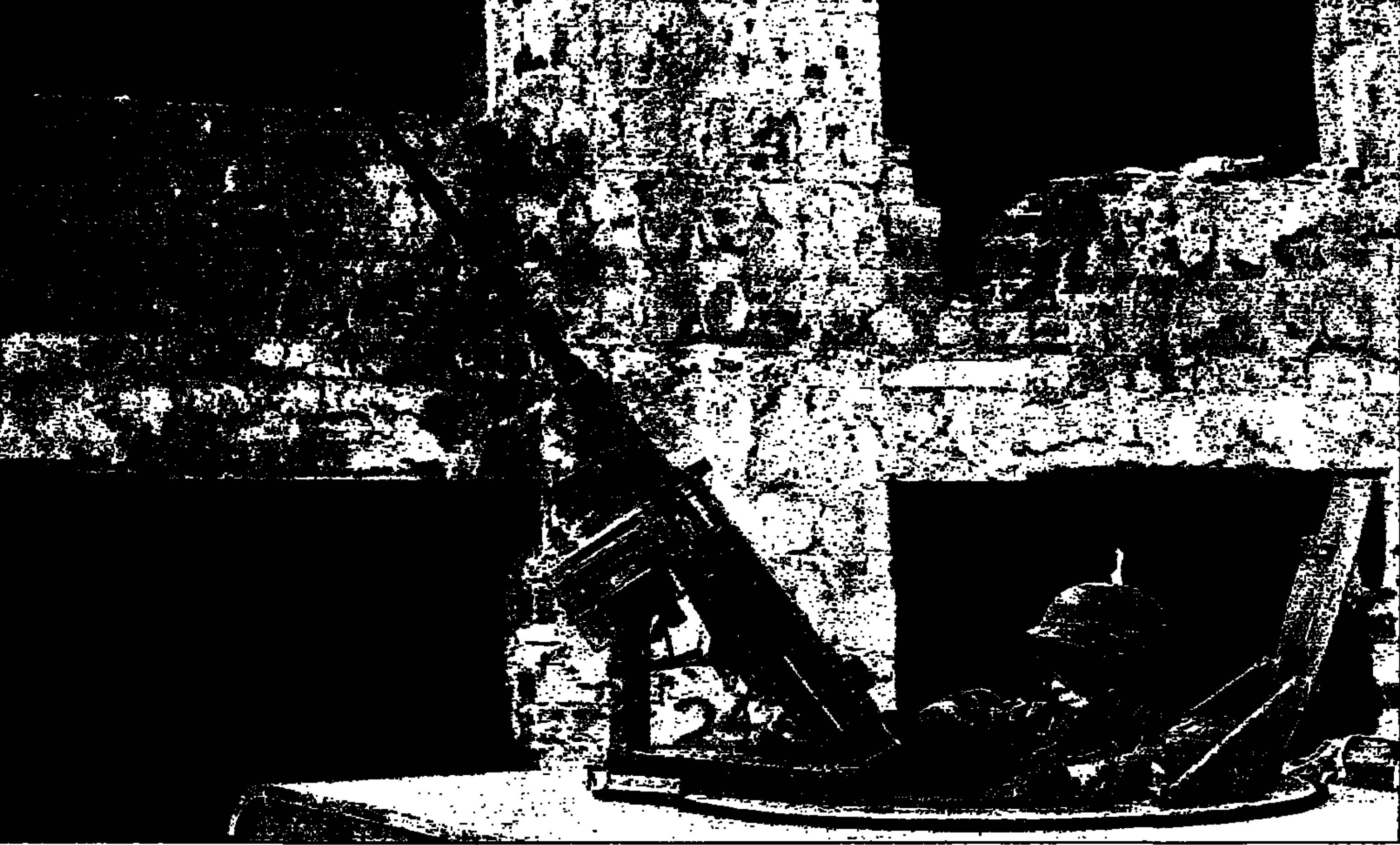
Underlining the problems that still remain in Bosnia, the Bosnian Serb parliament yesterday called on the six-nation Contact Group to meet urgently to revise the decision on the future status of Brcko, the northern Bosnia town which, under international arbitration, is to become a neutral district, controlled by neither the Serbs nor the Muslim-Croat Federation. The parliament rejected the decision on Sunday. But Carlos Westendorp, the international peace-co-ordinator said yesterday his decision on Friday to sack Nikola Poplasen, the hardline Bosnian Serb President, for obstructing the peace process was "final and irrevocable".

In his speech yesterday, Mr Blair urged the Kosovo Liberation Army "to cease its operations and accept demilitarisation", and for the Serbs to reduce their forces to agreed levels and allow Nato-led troops to underpin the proposed autonomy arrangements for Kosovo.

At the same conference, General Klaus Naumann, chairman of Nato's Military Committee, said he was unhappy that some alliance leaders were giving Mr Milosevic "guarantees that certain things won't happen, so he can play chess with us". Although he did not name the leaders, it was assumed he was referring to the French and Italians. General Naumann said it was vital to keep Mr Milosevic guessing about what Nato might do.

"Everyone should rest assured that anyone who dares to raise his weapons against Nato will not have a good time in the long run," he declared.

AMEL EMRIC / AP



A US soldier, serving with the Nato force in Bosnia, occupies the gunner's position while patrolling the disputed Bosnian Serb town of Brcko



Pristina's nights of bloodletting cast shadow over peace prospects

From Anthony Loyd in Pristina

AFTER the sun has gone down over the clustered horizon of minarets, belching factory chimneys and tower blocks, the fear in Pristina is as tangible as the sulphur smog in the empty streets. If ever there seemed a city waiting for war, then this is it. By 8pm there is not a soul to be seen outside in the gloom except for the silhouettes of gun-toting Serb police; by 10pm not a sound other than gun-bolts being worked beneath my window.

Killings within the city, as the stress of the conflict superimposes itself upon tearing gangland hierachies, are becoming an almost regular occurrence. One southwestern Pristina suburb, Emshiri, still remains sealed off by police in a follow-up operation after two of their colleagues were killed in a gun battle on Sunday. "It is partly a war affair, partly a mafia affair," a police captain remarked glibly of his friends' death.

Elsewhere fierce clashes continue in both the south and north of the province. More refugees are on the move, and if tonight is a normal night there will be at least three fresh corpses, either Serb or Albanian, lying by roadsides at dawn. So there is good reason for tension. And perhaps no reason so good as the apparent failure yesterday of Western diplomats to get an outright agreement from the Kosovo Liberation Army to back the Contact Group's peace plan to end the southern Serbian province's escalating bloodshed. As yet unplayed, Kosovo's worst-case scenario appears to be inching to the fore.

A planned meeting of the KLA general headquarters on Sunday to discuss signing up to the plan, a gathering that was to include four of the deputation present in Rambouillet as well as the seven zone commanders, did not take place amid reports of divisions within the movement.

Insiders reported three particular sticking-points blocking acceptance: the proposed presence of Russian troops attached to a Nato deployment in Kosovo to mollify the Serbs; the disarming and disbandment of the KLA; and lastly, inevitably, the West's half-way offer of autonomy.

"Things have not looked promising for days now," said a diplomat in contact with those at the rendezvous. "It does not look like there will be any certain agreement. In fact, it looks like this will drag on indefinitely."

EU fails to win allies in banana conflict

By Charles Bremner

EUROPE won little sympathy when it took its feud with Washington over bananas before the world's top trade body yesterday, claiming that US sanctions were a declaration of war against all its members.

Irritation over the conduct of the US and European Union was manifest at the World Trade Organisation meeting in Geneva, which was called by the EU to protest against punitive US sanctions that could cost more than £320 million in exports this year.

Envoys at the 133-nation grouping voiced dismay over the quarrel that many see as a threat to efforts to liberalise global trade.

Renato Ruggiero, the Director-General of the trade organisation, urged Washington and Brussels to settle the dispute themselves.

"We seek a solution to a problem firstly by mutual agreement and not by imposing rulings on either side," Signor Ruggiero said. "I invite again both parties to renew their efforts."

The EU had been hoping to win moral support from the trade organisation's council against what it sees as a flagrant breach of the group's rules. Roderick Abbott, the EU envoy to the WTO, said the Americans were "declaring war on . . . WTO members whose compliance it decides is inadequate".

The European case is that the Americans failed to wait for the outcome of separate trade organisation arbitration before imposing a 100 per cent levy on a wide list of imported goods, ranging from Scottish cashmere to Spanish leather.

Britain is the biggest target of the American decision to retaliate against EU rules that favour banana imports from the Caribbean and Africa over those from Latin America.

Libby Purves, page 22

Iranian leader targets the Pope in European charm offensive


Khatami: capitalising on his image as a moderate

Khatami's attempt at dialogue angers US and exiles, Richard Owen writes in Rome

IN THE face of American dismay and protests from Iranian exiles. *President Khatami will today be*come the first Iranian leader to travel to Europe since the Islamic revolution of 1979 when he makes an official visit to Rome and the Vatican.

He will meet the Pope on Thursday. and will follow the Rome visit with talks in Paris next month.

Diplomats said President Khatami's European "charm offensive" was intended to capitalise on his rep*utation as a moderate. further en*hanced by the success of reformers in Tehran and key towns such as Isfahan. Tabriz and Shiraz in the recent municipal elections. Iranian officials said the President wanted to engage in a "dialogue of civilisations", and his meeting with the Pope in particular would mark the opening of "a dialogue between Christianity and Islam".

But Tehran clearly also hopes the trip will widen the gap between Europe and America on the branding of Iran as a pariah state, with European companies increasingly willing to defy the American-led embargo. Last week ENI of Italy and Elf-Aquitaine of France signed a $1 billion (£660 million) deal to develop the offshore Doroud oilfield in the Gulf, despite Washinton's threat of sanctions against any firm investing more than $20 million in Iran's energy sector.

A State Department spokesman said Washington was "disappointed and concerned" by the oil deal. The Italian press quoted Kamal Kharrazi, the Foreign Minister, as saying he none the less hoped US oil companies would also return to invest in Iran, which has been hit by the worldwide fall in oil prices. Mr Kharrazi called on America to " face reality " and drop its embargo, imposed in 1995 because of Iran's alleged involvement in terrorism.

Lamberto Dini, the Italian Foreign *Minister*, who visited Tehran a year ago, said he had been assured by President Khatami that Iran "does not support terrorism, either by states or by individual groups". Writing in *La Repubblica*, Signor Dini said the recent elections marked "a turning point in Iranian history".

Italian officials said Massimo D'Alema, the Prime Minister, and Signor Dini would press Mr Khatami "behind the scenes" over Iran's human rights record, and would raise "continuing Western concern" over the death threats against Salman Rushdie, the British writer. But Italian opposition MPs said President Khatami was merely the "acceptable face" of an authoritarian regime.Police said they expected 4,000 Iranian exiles from opposition groups to protest against the visit on the streets of Rome today.

President Khatami will meet Signor D'Alema and President Scalfaro today before delivering a "message to Europe" in a lecture in Florence tomorrow .

While Britain has supported the American line, Italy and France have been in the forefront of links with Tehran, with Signor Dini going to Tehran last year barely a week after the EU had lifted its ban on ministerial visits to Iran. The ban was imposed in 1997 after a German court ruled that Tehran was behind the murder of three Kurdish dissidents in Berlin in 1992.

Signor Dini said he had found Mr *Khatami a. "cultured man with a* clear vision of the way forward, who seeks dialogue both with Europe and the US". He said Iran's arsenal was "not large enough to cause undue alarm".

☐ Nicosia: Reformers allied to President Khatami yesterday celebrated the capture of all but two of 15 Tehran council seats in elections held last week. They were also victorious in *most other* cities. *The final* results, released yesterday, were further evidence that Iran's protracted power struggle is tilting firmly in favour of Mr Khatami (Michael Theodoulou writes).

Russia is likely to win another IMF handout

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

DESPITE the continuing saga of the missing millions from Russia's Central Bank and the Government's abject failure to come up with a coherent economic programme, the International Monetary Fund is expected *to pour more money* into the country's devastated economy.

Western economists believe that a deal is likely to be completed when Yevgeni Primakov, the Prime Minister and the man tipped to be the next President, visits Washington at the end of the month.

An IMF mission that is expected in Moscow this week to continue negotiations with the Government finds itself faced with a tough choice.

It could recommend that the next instalment of its $17.6 billion (£10.8 billion) loan to Russia be paid. This would disregard allegations of large-scale theft by the Central Bank via Fimaco, its offshore management company, and the devastating impact the last IMF stabilisation loan had in propping up an untenable currency. The rouble collapsed on August 17 last year, leaving the Russian banks to rush their depositors' money offshore, never to be seen again.

Alternatively, the IMF could refuse to pump any more money into a country that in only six months has become an economic disaster zone. The likely result would be that Russia would default on repayments *of the $18 billion already pro*vided by the IMF. So far Russia has kept up to date on its debt service, repaying $5 billion over the past five months.

But without the next loan instalment. Russia would have to print itself into hyperinflation to meet its foreign debt obligations.

"Politically, I don't see how the IMF can refuse them the money. They have got no choice," said one senior Western economist in Moscow. "The Fimaco scandal has been blown out of all proportion, and even if Central Bank people were lining their own pockets a bit, it at least means they weren't on the payrolls of the big [commercial] bankers."

Yuri Skuratov, the Chief Prosecutor, has accused the Central Bank and Fimaco, which was technically owned by the bank, of possible illegal activity. Although no proof has emerged that actual theft took place, records do appear to have been doctored to exclude certain deals. Viktor Gerashchenko, the Central Bank Chairman, has employed PriceWaterhouseCoopers to conduct a special audit of Fimaco, although this will not be the first time Western *auditors have been called in.*

A deal between Russia and the IMF is now desperately needed by both sides, especially since Mr Primakov, who promised before he became Prime Minister that nobody should expect quick results from him, has been dragging out negotiations on economic restructuring for so long.

President Yeltsin is known to be irritated by Mr Primakov's failure to strike a deal and Moscow is buzzing with rumours that the Prime Minister is about to be sacked.

However, much though Mr Yeltsin might like to get rid of the increasingly powerful and popular Mr Primakov, such a move would probably result in his own power being challenged by the State Duma.

It is more likely, therefore, that Yuri Maslyukov, the First Deputy Prime Minister and the Government's chief negotiator with the IMF, or Gennadi Kulik, his deputy, will be sacrificed.

EYAL WARSHAVSKY / AP


Yaacov Huster, right, beside the Byzantine church mosaic that he has uncovered

Israeli army post faces attack from archaeologists

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have discovered the excellently preserved remains of a Byzantine church named after John the Baptist, but are unable to complete their excavation because an Israeli army position is directly on top of the site.

The Jerusalem Post reported yesterday that the controversial dig is taking place in the northwest corner of the Gaza Strip, which *is still under Israeli occupa*tion.

Although a large part of the church, dating back to AD544, has been uncovered, the military position is preventing experts from reaching all the structure.

"I met the Israel Defence Force commanders there and told them that I hope that this great big army could move a small position," said Yaacov Huster, an Israeli archaeologist. "They told me that they would look into it, that they were doing the best they can. But I have not heard anything yet."

A defence force spokesman said that there was a meeting between representatives of the Antiquities Authority and IDF officials over the matter last week. A number of proposals were suggested and the matter is under discussion.

An impressive mosaic has been found at the entrance to the sixth-century church, which states that it was called St John and that its foundations were laid in 544. The inscription also praises those who donated money for the mosaic — Victor and Yohanan — and says that the work was completed in 550. The church, measuring about 25 yards by 13 yards, was built *during the* reign of the Emperor Justinian, *when monuments* were particularly lavish in the Holy Land.

Mr Huster added: "This is a significant find because it gives an exact date for the foundation of the church and the completion of its mosaic floors and spills light on this period."

He said that there are numerous Byzantine remains along the coast from the Israeli resort of Ashkelon to Gaza City, now under Palestinian control. Most are monasteries, but this church was thought to have served a small village because the floor was donated and there was no mention of an abbot.

It is believed that it was abandoned at about the time of the Arab conquest in AD634. There were no signs of destruction or fire and only ornamental mantels decorated with crosses were defaced. The mosaic remained protected by sand.

France tries six absent Libyans for bombings

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

A FRENCH court yesterday began hearing in absentia a case against six Libyan secret service agents accused of killing 170 people in a terrorist attack on a French civilian airliner in 1989.

One of those accused, Abdallah Senoussi, 47, is the brother-in-law of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, who has refused to extradite the defendants. But he has indicated *that he might be willing to jail the men in Libya if* they were found guilty.

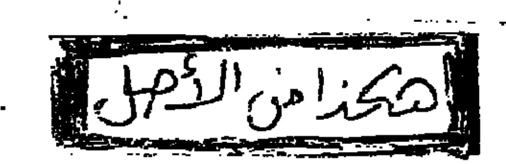
At the same time Colonel Gaddafi is waging an apparently *successful* diplomatic offensive to persuade the French Government to push for a lifting of the 1992 United Nations embargo imposed on Libya for its refusal to co-operate with investigations into the Lockerbie plane bombing and the attack on the French DC10.

In the French bombing a UTA flight from Brazzaville, Congo, to Paris via Ndjamena in Chad exploded over the desert in Niger, killing all 156 passengers and 14 crew members on September 19, 1989. Bonnie Pugh, the wife of the US Ambaassador to Chad, and *Mahamat Soumahila*, Chad's Planning Minister, were on board.

French detectives, helped by the FBI, discovered fragments of a timing device bought in Germany by Libyan agents. They also traced a member of the Congolese opposition movement, Bernard Yanga, who said one of his colleagues had unwittingly carried a suitcase that contained the explosives onto the plane. Mr Yanga said the attack was to avenge French support for Chad in its war with Libya in the 1980s.

Mr Senoussi, head of international operations of the Libyan secret services, is being tried along with Colonel Issa *Shibani, head of technical serv*ices, Abdallah Elazragh, 64, head of the Brazzaville bureau, and three of his subordinates.







TUESDAY MARCH 9 1999

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Schröder: angered by phone advertisement

Mobile message falls on deaf ears

By Roger Boyes

THE German Chancellor was said to be upset yesterday by the unauthorised use of his photograph in an advertisement for mobile telephones.

"I must tell Oskar," Gerhard Schröder says in the advertisement, in a reference to Oskar Lafontaine, his Finance Minister.

The text is advertising the message that rates of Mobilcom telephone company are cheaper than those of the market leader, Deutsche Telekom. Photographs of Herr Schröder talking into the telephone made the news yesterday and at the weekend.

Since the Social Democrat-Green Government came to power in autumn, German advertisers have been having a field day pirating photographs of politicians. A favourite target is Joschka Fischer, the Foreign Minister. He has authorised only one out of dozens of advertisements featuring his face, but even this relatively modest plug for an encyclopaedia has led to a hail of criticism.

Advertisers argue that politicians' images are in the public domain. Politicians, keen initially to increase their public recognition, now believe their images are being devalued.

Danger man of Bonn dogged by EU rumour

A plot to push Lafontaine into Brussels job is detected, writes Roger Boyes

OSKAR LAFONTAINE, the German Finance Minister once dubbed the "most dangerous man" in Europe, was again tipped yesterday to be the next President of the European Union.

When the rumour first surfaced, the Jesuit-educated Herr Lafontaine joked that he was running for Pope, not for the European Commission, but the denials last night were less jovial.

The reason is clear: Herr Lafontaine believes confidants of Gerhard Schröder, the Chancellor, are trying to clip his wings. A move to Brussels, indeed any suggestion he is less than fully committed to his two jobs as Finance Minister and Social Democratic Party chairman, is interpreted as a sign of weakness.

Herr Lafontaine has come under criticism for his half-hearted tax reforms, which do little to relieve ordinary income-tax payers but seem to penalise big companies which are threatening to switch their investment to other EU countries, including Britain. He is also being blamed for the confused state of the Social Democratic Party. For the first time since the election last autumn, the Social Democrat-Green coalition no longer enjoys a majority in opinion polls.

Herr Lafontaine started his stint in power by shocking his European allies, calling for tax harmonisation, tighter political and economic integration and target exchange-rate zones. At home he has shocked Germans by suggesting — contrary to pledges made by Herr Schröder — that there could be a working alliance with the previously shunned ex-communists, the Party of Democratic Socialists. Yet the pressure of getting a deal on the reform of European finances — the present deadline is the European summit on March 25 — trussed him up. So, too, has the dwindling importance of the Social Democratic Party in the day-to-day process of government. The power of the party chairmanship has shrunk accordingly.

The result is a vacuum at the heart of Bonn politics between the Chancellor who, like Helmut Kohl before him, is trying to create a presidential style of government, and the technically most important but invariably absent Cabinet minister.

The Chancellor's chief aide, Bodo Hombach, has called for more discipline in the Government and is trying to pull back some of the authority that has trickled away over the past five months. But these efforts seem to be accompanied by covert briefings against troublesome ministers.

Hence the new life given to the old rumour — carried as a front-page story in *La Stampa* of Turin — that Herr Lafontaine is destined to succeed Jacques Santer in Brussels. The truth is that the Chancellor almost certainly favours the former Prime Minister of Italy, Romano Prodi.

Signor Prodi was recently seen in Bonn dining with Herr Kohl. Both men were later invited for a second dinner with Herr Schröder.

Herr Lafontaine may be down but he is not out. His chief weakness is the poor state of the economy and no amount of lobbying for lower interest rates can make up for the fact that unemployment has been climbing steeply since the Social Democrats came to power.

The responsibility for the flagging economy is shared with the Chancellor, however. The German Chamber of Commerce forecasts growth this year of barely 1.5 per cent. Only a few months ago double that rate was predicted.

In January, producer prices dropped by 2.3 per cent compared to January 1998, the steepest fall for years. With the euro sliding rapidly against the dollar and investment switching abroad, German economists are talking openly of a looming recession.

Leading article, page 23

HERMANN J. KNIPPERTZ / AP



Herr Lafontaine in Bonn yesterday, in front of a portrait of a former parliamentary leader, Herbert Wehner

Cook will ask Nigeria to stay in peace role

By Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, arrived in Nigeria last night for four days of intensive talks to keep West African forces in Sierra Leone and to map out the ruined country's political and economic recovery.

He will also hold a summit with his French counterpart to try to heal the wounds of nearly a century of Anglo-French rivalry in Africa, and they will join forces to prevent the fighting in the Democratic Republic of Congo from destabilising surrounding countries.

In Nigeria he will urge Olusegun Obasanjo, the President-elect, not to pull troops out of Sierra Leone, where they form the backbone of the Ecomog intervention force that has been fighting the rebels. There are strong fears in London that Nigeria will tire of its heavy losses and costly operations to prop up the tottering Government of President Kabbah, and may withdraw. But this would hand victory to the brutal Revolutionary United Front, which last month almost overran Freetown, the capital.

Mr Cook will promise President Kabbah maximum support to keep him in power and help to rebuild his country. Last week the Government announced £10 million in emergency aid — mostly for equipment, communications and military logistics and to help to demilitarise captured rebel forces. That is on top of £4 million already committed, making Sierra Leone one of the biggest recipients of British emergency aid over the past year.

Nigeria's presidential elections are seen as a vital step in bringing stability to West Africa, and Mr Cook will congratulate Mr Obusanjo on his victory and General Abdulsalami Abubakar, outgoing head of the military Government, for allowing civilian rule.

Nigeria was yesterday promised a rapid return to full Commonwealth membership. To mark Commonwealth Day, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Secretary-General — and a former Nigerian Foreign Minister — said that he expected Nigeria to be readmitted on May 29, the day the civilian Government takes office.

Mr Cook's visit was yesterday upstaged by that of the Rev. Jesse Jackson, President Clinton's special envoy, who arrived with messages of congratulation from the White House for both Nigerian leaders. Mr Jackson will visit the volatile Delta region.

Later Mr Cook will make a joint visit with Hubert Védrine, France's Foreign Minister, to Ghana and Ivory Coast. They will call a meeting of the region's British and French ambassadors to proclaim a new era of Franco-British cooperation in a continent where colonial rivalry has pitted anglophone and francophone Africans against each other.

That rivalry was bitterly underlined in Uganda last week when Rwandan Hutu extremists who murdered eight English-speaking tourists first separated, then left unharmed, those who spoke French.

Letters, page 23

Elders bury heads in sand as French diners hop into Australia habit

From Adam Sage in Paris

KANGAROO fillets and ostrich steaks are becoming popular on Gallic dinner tables as younger French generations ignore their elders and embrace globalisation.

Figures published yesterday by the Australian Trade Commission in Paris said France had, contrary to its chauvinistic reputation, imported more kangaroo and ostrich meat than any other European country last year. Australian kangaroo farms have been unable to make serious inroads in countries with strong animal rights lobbies such as Britain, but have found that the carnivorous French provide them with a boom market.

French importers have also asked for a licence to sell camel and crocodile meat, the magazine, *Marianne*, reported yesterday. The success of Sir Terence Conran's Parisian restaurant, Alcazar, which opened last year, is another sign that modern French are willing to accept foreign products. "It is completely wrong to think that the French are nationalistic," said Anne Borgo, marketing manager with the Australian Trade Commission in the French capital. "The young are very open-minded."

Sales of Australian wine in France were rising by 60 per cent a year to reach 500,000 litres in 1998. Among the over-40s, these figures are likely to provoke collective apoplexy. Most would rather live on Perrier than be forced to touch a drop of non-French wine. Spanish Rioja is seen as dangerously exotic, while Australian products are treated as a bad joke.

Australia is second only to Britain on France's hate list, but climbed to first place for a few months in 1995 as the two countries fell out over French nuclear tests in the South Pacific. Kati Jahromi, Education Director at the Trade Commission, said older French generations continued to shape French policy and the country's image abroad. "But the under-40s are completely different and they just do their own thing." Younger French people ate almost all the 900 tonnes of ostrich meat and 600 tonnes of kangaroo meat imported from Australia in 1998, and are likely to eat more this year, according to the commission. French farmers have jumped on the bandwagon and established several ostrich farms in western France, including one, near Nantes, with 6,000 birds.

All the big French supermarkets sell ostrich for up to Fr210 (about £23) a kilo, and most sell kangaroo fillets for about Fr70 a kilo. "We tested kangaroo meat on 6,000 people in France last year," said Mme Borgo, "and 100 per cent said they liked it. It is fat free and tastes very similar to beef." Australian attempts to sell kangaroo in Britain have foundered because of misgivings about eating such an apparently cuddly animal. But there are no such problems in France, which has a long tradition of consuming horsemeat.

s six absent
bombings



Family sues 'Killers' director

Relatives say woman was shot in robbery inspired by crime film, writes **Damian Whitworth** in Washington

THE family of a Louisiana woman who say she was shot in a robbery inspired by Oliver Stone's film *Natural Born Killers* have been given permission to sue the director.

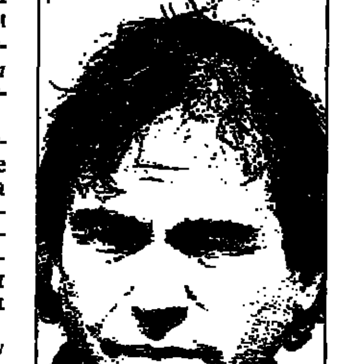
The Supreme Court yesterday gave the go-ahead for the action by agreeing with a Louisiana Appeal Court ruling that the film was not protected by constitutional free-speech guarantees because it allegedly incited "imminent lawless activity".

The 1994 movie, directed by Stone and starring Woody Harrelson and Juliette Lewis, portrayed a young couple who go on a crime spree, killing numerous people.

The lawsuit has been filed in the name of Patsy Ann Byers — who was shot and paralysed on March 8, 1995, at a convenience store in Ponchatoula — her husband, Lonnie Wayne Byers, and their three children, Ladonna, an adult, Jacob, 13, and Joshua, four. The family are seeking damages against the film's directors, producers and distributors.

It is alleged that Sarah Edmondson, 18, the daughter of an Oklahoma judge and the niece of Oklahoma's attorney-general, and her accomplice, Benjamin Darrus, repeatedly watched a videotape of the film and then went on the rampage, murdering a Mississippi businessman and attempting to kill Mrs Byers.

It is claimed that Stone, Time Warner Inc. and others involved in directing, producing or distributing the film should be held responsible and pay damages because they made a film that intended to make people violent.



Stone: accused of trying to make people violent

Theodore Olson, for the Hollywood defendants, had appealed to the Supreme Court to overturn the Louisiana ruling. The attorney said that decision created "a dangerously low threshold for damage suits against artists for the criminal conduct of alleged imitators" and represented a "drastic departure" from First Amendment law.

He added that the decision "exposed writers, publishers, broadcasters and motion picture producers to costly ... litigation" whenever it can be alleged an individual inflicted injury based on inspiration from an artist's work.

Artists will have no choice, he said, but to censor violent or particularly graphic depictions that might lead to imitation and costly jury verdicts. Supporting the appeal were several media-related organisations, including groups representing television networks, booksellers, authors, publishers, film directors and the film industry. They urged the Supreme Court to reverse the ruling "to safeguard important constitutional rights".

But attorneys for the family of Mrs Byers, who died of cancer last year at 38, opposed the appeal, saying the case was "literally in its embryonic stages" and should proceed. They said that the Hollywood defendants had exaggerated the ruling's consequences, and could reassert First Amendment claims after the gathering of evidence. The Supreme Court let the Louisiana ruling stand without comment.

Darrus and Edmondson received 35-year jail sentences for shooting Mrs Byers in the neck and Darrus was given life for the murder of William Savage, the businessman.



LINKS

http://www.abstract-reality.com/cinema/action/n/natural_born_killers/ — Movies Website.
http://www.vermontel.com/~spyderx/nbk.html — Unofficial fan club, with clips and a review.



Woody Harrelson and Juliette Lewis in the controversial film on violence

Chinese warm to the theme of Mickey Mao

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

WHEN you already have Kentucky Fried Chicken, McDonald's and Coca-Cola, why not Mickey Mao?

Shanghai's Mayor, Xu Kuangdi, said yesterday that the Chinese port city was in the running, like Hong Kong, to build a Disney theme park.

"If you build one in Hong Kong and another in Shanghai, it is not too much," Mr Xu told delegates to China's parliament, the National People's Congress, holding its annual session in Beijing. Hong Kong announced last week that it was talking to the Walt Disney Company.

"Whether it is Hong Kong or Shanghai, we are extremely happy because China needs a Disney park," Mr Xu said.

Using a metaphor easily appreciated in football-mad China, Mr Xu, whose city was once a bastion of the Cultural Revolution that banned all forms of popular entertainment, added: "Whoever scores the goal, it is the Chinese team."

It seems all is forgiven by Chinese leaders who were angry with Disney over its 1997 film *Kundun*, based on the life of the Dalai Lama, the exiled spiritual leader of Tibet who is seeking autonomy for his Himalayan homeland.

Beijing's reaction threatened Disney's business interests in China, but the company now seems to have repaired the damage. Michael Eisner, Disney's chairman and chief executive officer, visited Beijing last year for talks.

Mr Eisner said that he was struck by the business opportunities and that he was confident that the Chinese people loved Mickey Mouse. He indicated Disney was considering major investment in China.

The possibility of a Disney theme park in Hong Kong at a time of economic misery and high unemployment has cheered the markets in the former British territory. However, Hong Kong has indicated that, while it welcomed a possible deal with Disney, there were limits to the concessions it would make to achieve one. A decision on the theme park is expected by June 30.

Mr Xu said that Shanghai had several advantages over its rival in the south, namely greater land resources and a population of 12 million compared with Hong Kong's 6.7 million.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Jakarta 'causing famine' in Timor

Sydney: East Timor is being kept short of food by Indonesia to pressure the dissident territory to abandon thoughts of independence, José Ramos-Horta, Timorese winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, said yesterday (David Watts writes).

Speaking in Canberra after meeting 21 Western diplomats reviewing the situation in the former Portuguese territory — invaded by Indonesia in 1975 and annexed the following year — he argued that a United Nations presence was needed. "There is an impending humanitarian catastrophe in the next few weeks if no initiative, no actions, are taken right now to provide supplies of food, medicine and essential commodities to East Timor," Mr Ramos-Horta said.

Poll rivals killed

Johannesburg: The threat of violence as campaigning intensifies for South Africa's June 2 general election escalated after two officials of rival parties were murdered near Cape Town (Ray Kennedy writes). Zwelinzima Hlazo, an African National Congress local councillor, was shot in the street and Mncedisi Mpongwana, a United Democratic Movement branch secretary, was killed at his home.

Warning for Chechnya

Moscow: In a direct threat to Chechnya, Sergei Stepashin, the Russian Interior Minister, gave warning that action would be taken if Major-General Gennadi Shpigun, Mr Stepashin's representative in the breakaway republic who was kidnapped on Friday, was not released (Anna Blundy writes). Mr Stepashin's comments came as Russia evacuated all of its remaining personnel from its headquarters in Grozny.

Schwarzenegger row

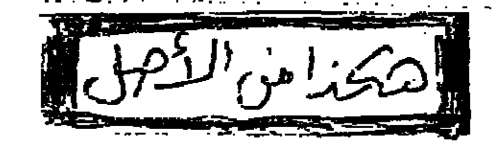
Tokyo: Shozaburo Nakamura, the Justice Minister, resigned over claims that he allowed Arnold Schwarzenegger into Japan without a passport (Robert Whymant writes). The American actor was permitted to enter, though he told officials he had lost his passport and filled out a form. Mr Nakamura admitted he retained the form instead of forwarding it to the authorities, but denied taking it home as a souvenir.

Fresco thief repents

Rome: A tourist from Brazil who stole a fragment of medieval fresco from the Basilica of St Francis in Assisi after the earthquake a year and a half ago has returned it "with apologies" (Richard Owen writes). *Il Messaggero* said the woman had been tormented by guilt. Father Giulio Berrettoni, the basilica's custodian, said the Franciscan order at the medieval complex would not press charges.

Divine vengeance

Nairobi: A thief who stole the collection at a Sunday service in All Saints Cathedral, Nairobi, was killed by a bus when he fled with his loot, the *Kenya Times* reported. The middle-aged man, who had attended the service, ran straight into the path of the bus when he fled after members of the congregation spotted him putting the money into his pockets. *(Reuters)*



America mourns death of baseball hero DiMaggio

Clinton praise for player who became US icon, writes Damian Whitworth

JOE DiMAGGO, the baseball legend and one-time husband of Marilyn Monroe who was immortalised by Hemingway and Simon and Garfunkel, died yesterday He was 84.

DiMaggio was arguably the greatest player to grace a baseball field and revered as the quintessential gentleman off it. President Clinton said the United States had lost one of the century's most beloved heroes.

"This son of Italian immigrants gave every American something to believe in He became the very symbol of American grace, power and skill," Mr Clinton said in a statement issued at the start of his four-day visit to Central America.

"I have no doubt that when future generations look back at the best of America in the 20th century, they will think of the 'Yankee Clipper' and all that he achieved. Hillary and I extend our thoughts and prayers to his family," said Mr Clinton. He added that DiMaggio was a giant off the baseball diamond because in 1943 he volunteered for the army and swapped a New York Yankees wage for a $50 a month private's salary.

Yogi Berra, DiMaggio's team-mate from 1947 to 1951 on the dominant New York Yankees team, said his friend was "a loner most of the time. He did his own thing but he was a great ball player, that's all I know. We are going to miss him."

George Steinbrenner, principal owner of the New York Yankees, for whom DiMaggio played ten World Series, said he was "deeply saddened" by the death of "one of the greatest of all time. It was the class and dignity with which he led his life that made him part of all of us."

DiMaggio is renowned as the great centre fielder whose 56-game hitting streak in 1941 remains one of the great, long-standing records in sport. The run, which involved making a hit in every game, captivated the nation for the last summer before it went to war.

He was also famous for a short marriage to Monroe that ensured a shy man was in the limelight. When they split up he refused to talk about her but for years after she died he sent roses to her grave.

The son of a fisherman he featured in Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*. "I would like to take the great DiMaggio fishing," the ancient Cuban fisherman says. "They say his father was a fisherman. Maybe he was as poor as we are and would understand."

In the song *Mrs Robinson*, Simon and Garfunkel sang: *Where have you gone Joe DiMaggio/A nation turns its lonely eyes to you/What's that you say, Mrs Robinson/Joltin' Joe has left and gone away.*

DiMaggio died at home in Florida, surrounded by his family, early yesterday. The cause of death was not known but he underwent surgery for lung cancer last year and afterwards struggled with infections. At one stage he was reported to have received the last rites but recovered, carpeted his lawyers for writing him off to the press and left hospital. His body will be flown to northern California for burial in his hometown of San Francisco, Morris Engelberg, his friend and lawyer, said.

"DiMaggio, the consummate gentleman on and off the field, fought his illness as hard as he played the game of baseball and with the same dignity, style and grace with which he lived his life," he added.

☐ **Friendly game:** A Major League baseball team will play in Cuba for the first time in 40 years when the Baltimore Orioles visit later this month. It is one of several moves to boost contacts between the two countries.

LINKS

http://www.totalbaseball.com/ — Statistics, and tributes to DiMaggio.
http://www.baseballhalloffame.org/members/hofers/jpd/jpd.html — The National Baseball Hall of Fame.
http://www.yankees.com/web/home/home.html — Official site of the New York Yankees.



Joe DiMaggio and Marilyn Monroe kissing on their wedding day in 1954. Their marriage was short-lived

Obituary, page 25
Sporting great, page 52

US to check 'food chain' drugs

By Damian Whitworth

THE US Food and Drug Administration is launching a major review of the feeding of antibiotics to livestock on a routine basis amid increasing fears that the controversial practice could be exposing human beings to danger.

The administration, in a move to try to prevent the development of strains of bacteria that are resistant to antibotics, is considering guidelines that will force the manufacturers to introduce new tests for livestock drugs. Those that will come under particular examination are antibiotics used for both animals and human beings.

In Europe, antibiotics used to treat human beings cannot be given to animals to cause growth, but in America there is much crossover.

Now there are calls to follow the example of Europe. Some scientists claim that feeding the antibiotics to animals at low levels over a long time fosters resistance that can be passed on to human beings. It is suggested that the resistant bacteria can be picked up either by handling meat or eating it.

Dr Stephen Sundlof, director of the centre for veterinary medicine at the FDA, told The New York Times: "Resistance has always been a problem in human medicine. The way we had avoided any catastrophic events was to continue to develop new products.

"But it became apparent in the 1990s that there weren't any new classes of antibiotics at the stage of development where they would be approved and available in the near future, and there was great concern that if resistance developed to this last class of drugs, it could have very bad ramifications for the public."

Clinton takes aid pledge to Central America



President Clinton is greeted in Managua

By David Adams
LATIN AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT CLINTON arrived in Nicaragua yesterday at the start of a four-day tour of Central America where he will inspect progress made in the recovery from last year's devastating Hurricane Mitch, as well as offering continued US economic support.

Mr Clinton, who is often at his best overseas, may have been looking forward to a break from Washington. But even in Central America it may be hard for him to escape the cloud of Monica Lewinsky. Mr Clinton's Central American trip had to be postponed last month because of the impeachment hearings in Congress.

Since then the problems have not gone away. The White House had hoped to win quick approval last week for a $1 billion (£614 million) emergency aid package for the region, only to see it get bogged down in budget debates in Congress. Another Administration proposal to expand trade concessions to Central America is also destined for the long haul.

Central American governments are warning the US that, if it does not take swift action, it will be hit by a wave of refugees from the region, where unemployment is at record levels due to the economic damage to agriculture and industry inflicted by Mitch. Many "wetbacks" are already entering the US across the border with Mexico and in January this year the number of illegal immigrants from Central America caught entering the US rose 150 per cent.

Hurricane Mitch, which struck Central America in late October and early November, is considered one of the worst natural disasters recorded in the Western hemisphere. The storm meandered along the north coast of Honduras for several days, then cut through the interior, leaving almost no part of the country untouched before unleashing mudslides in Nicaragua and, to a lesser extent, in El Salvador and Guatemala. More than 9,000 people died — 5,000 in Honduras alone — thousands are missing and the storm caused billions of pounds in damage. In Nicaragua and Honduras, thousands of people remain without housing.

The United Nations World Food Organization has given a warning that Honduras does not have enough grain to feed the nation, and it predicts a food crisis this spring. The rainy season starts in May and could trigger new flooding and landslides in areas made hazardous by Mitch.

"It's a difficult moment right now," said Sally O'Neill, who directs the Honduras office of Trocaire, the official aid organisation of the Irish Roman Catholic Church. "People are losing their patience. Immediately after the hurricane, there were tremendous pledges of aid. But few have been converted into cash."

US officials hope to launch a second recovery phase of hurricane relief with an ambitious $956 million aid package that they describe as "the largest relief operation ever directed at any natural disaster in our nation's history".

Most observers have praised the plan but worry about delays in Congress. "Huge talent has been put into this," said Bob White, a former US ambassador in Central America, and director of the Washington-based Centre for International Policy.

"In the 1980s Congress couldn't wait to dump billions of dollars into Central America to kill people. Now they can't come up with a few million to help these poor people out of the worst natural disaster in the Western hemisphere. It's outrageous," Mr White said.

What older mums are not told

Having children later in life could trigger early menopause. **Miranda Ingram** reports

HARRY GRUYAERT/MAGNUM



Some older mothers going through early menopause believe that stress from high-flying careers may be a factor

Christina Newell has an enviable media career, helpful husband and an intelligent lively four-year-old son. Yet what should be the prime of her life is, at 45, completely ruined by the relentless misery of an unexpected early menopause. "I'm exhausted. I can't sleep. I suffer from hot flushes and carpal tunnel syndrome — pain and numbness in the arm which means I can't hold anything for more than 20 seconds, my legs and hips ache constantly and the hormones are raging.

"I knew, being an older mother, that I wouldn't be much good on the football pitch, but I thought I would make it up intellectually. Now when Joshua asks me to read Teddy Robinson for the fifth time I burst into tears. He looks up over his Fruitibix and I'm having a hot flush and he asks me what's wrong.

"It's unbearable having to say to a sweet, adoring child that Mummy is too tired again and again and again. At this stage you are their whole world: playmate, best friend, mother, the lot. But I feel like his grandmother. I am taking HRT, but feel I have no choice. There is breast cancer in the family so I think I wouldn't normally have risked it, but I had to do something to try and be there for Josh.

"My reaction to any problem is to read as much as possible about it. Yet in all the books on menopause, there is nothing about menopause and toddlers. It makes me feel like an outsider. All the literature talks about 'now your children are leaving home' — the empty-nest syndrome which those middle life years have always been associated with.

"No one tells you how to cope when you're in floods of tears, your limbs are so heavy you cannot lift your arm and there's a bright-eyed little toddler pulling at your sleeve.

"I know there have always been women having children right up to the menopause, but they were the last children and there were probably older siblings around to help. Nor were women pursuing careers in the same ambitious, all-consuming way in those days."

Newell is convinced that there is a link between Nineties careers and early menopause, leaving many women in the same position. "Women are having children later because of their careers. But these same, stressful careers which make them put off the children, I'm sure, are bringing an early menopause, too.

"I have several friends also going through an early menopause — a 38-year-old mother of three and another of 45. Is it just coincidence that they are also my most high-achieving friends?"

Bridget Miles agrees with Newell. Mother of three children under six and equally high-flying, she, too, is menopausal long before she expected it. "Because I was working I kept putting off children, then suddenly found myself heading rapidly for 40. I had two daughters in quick succession at 38 and 39, felt fine, got re-established in my career, then had an accidental pregnancy at 43 and begged another career break. Now I'm 45, menopausal with three small children and I cannot cope.

"From a fit, lively, intellectually fulfilled older mother I've turned into a drugged-out zombie, swallowing every antidepressant and menopause treatment available. I can barely make myself a cup of tea and I sit there sweating, aching and bursting into tears practically every time I look at these lovely children."

Like Newell she also feels that she is alone. "I can't talk to anyone: having children later in life is meant to make you 'young', so that's how everyone expects you to be, not starting on the ageing process.

"I'm sure that trying to do so much brought it [the menopause] on. My mother had hers late, my older sister, who had her children earlier and doesn't work, shows no signs of starting."

Medically, there is no evidence that stress can bring on an early menopause (although it is acknowledged to interfere with menstrual cycles) but the various menopause clinics we spoke to agreed that no research has been done. Usually, although not always, a woman will follow her mother's pattern, yet all the women interviewed were going against the family trend and the main difference they saw between themselves and their mothers was the nature of their careers.

Increasing anecdotal evidence is needed to prompt the research, says a researcher at the menopause clinic in Guy's Hospital, in Southwark. There is, however, evidence that more and more women are having children later. Even if a link between early menopause and stress is not proved, there will be increasing numbers of women dealing with the peak of their careers, first toddlers and menopause at the same time over the next few years — a modern combination for which there is no support network.

> He looks up and asks what's wrong and I'm having a hot flush

"Of course women have always worked and have always been having children into their forties," says Pamela Armstrong, the former newscaster and author of *Beating the Biological Clock — The Joys and Challenges of Late Motherhood*. "The difference today is that whereas it used to be the eighth or ninth child, now it is the first or second.

"In earlier days, women were practised at motherhood by the time they had their late children, whereas these women are unskilled mothers. Often they have come straight from the boardroom, where everybody jumps at their word into a world of toddlers who behave very differently."

Interestingly, Armstrong discovered while researching her book that it is not just "career women" who are delaying motherhood. "Working-class women are also choosing to have children much later."

It is a result of what Armstrong calls the collapse of the meal ticket. "These women realise that, in these days of broken marriages and relationships, it is likely that they will face single motherhood and are putting off children until they are financially secure."

If this is the case, first-time motherhood and menopause will soon be a common combination, replacing the traditional empty-nest syndrome. At the moment, Newell and Miles (not their real names) are on extended sick leave and both are frightened of losing their jobs. Neither has told her employer the specific nature of her problems — they are, after all, says Miles, meant to be superwomen.

"As a society, we have to take a closer look at how we support and care for mothers with young infants," says Armstrong. "The support networks that we have are not adapting to women's changing circumstances."

Breast implants are withdrawn

MEDICINE CHEST

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Many East Norfolk village names bear witness to their Viking origins and some of their inhabitants still look Scandinavian. Elsie, a tall, fair-haired giantess, helped to care for me when I was four or five and looked like a character in an Ibsen play.

Once, when I was being more of a nuisance than usual, she seized me and carried me off in disgrace. I retaliated with a hammering of juvenile fists. The effect was dramatic. Elsie dissolved into tears, abandoned me and rushed off to find my doctor father.

After calm had been restored, I was told that Elsie's collapse was because she believed that the pounding her breasts had received would certainly induce cancer, end all hopes of marriage to her boyfriend, Harry, and probably result in an early death. My father said to me that although Elsie's fears were based on the myth that injury to breasts caused cancer, it was still as well to treat them with care — and that was why women didn't box or play rugby. Now, of course, they do both without any apparent effect on breast-related mortality.

The idea that breast cancers follow physical trauma stemmed from improved diagnosis after an injury, rather than any increased incidence of malignancy. It seems that for some time after any breast trauma women take more care in examining them and, as a result, discover lumps they would otherwise have missed.

Breast disease, or injury, still induces an understandable anxiety and every precaution needs to be taken to avoid this even when there is no scientific evidence that it is likely to cause lasting ill-effects.

This accounts for the withdrawal by the manufacturers of Translucent breast implants. Of the 5,000 Translucent implants since 1995, 74 have received adverse reports, such as swelling and inflammation of the breast occurring after rupture of the implant sac and the leaking of the contained soya oil. The signs and symptoms of the inflammation have been resolved once the implant has been removed. Barry Jones, a consultant surgeon, says: "There is no reason to suppose that there is any long-term health risk as a result of rupture and subsequent leaking of these implants."

However, doctors have been asked to identify patients who have had these implants and report any adverse effects. But they have been told that there is no indication to remove any implant that is not giving rise to trouble.

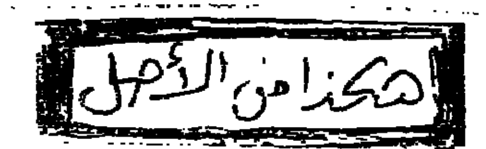
Breast reconstructive surgery is not only one of the forms of cosmetic surgery most often asked for by patients, but the one where the results give the patient the greatest satisfaction. Whereas nose reshaping often leaves a patient dissatisfied, it is rare to receive complaints about a remodeled breast.

It had been hoped that the Translucent implant would be almost ideal: it doesn't interfere with X-ray mammography, it can be implanted in front of the pectoralis muscle and gives a natural appearance and feel. It had also been thought that the oil was inert and if it did leak, would be metabolised by the body.

In America, there have also been problems with silicone breast implants and they have been withdrawn except in post-mastectomy reconstructive surgery. In Britain, an independent government review body, containing only one plastic surgeon but also immunologists, oncologists and other specialist doctors, has cleared them and concluded that there is no evidence that leaking silicone induces auto-immune disease — in particular, sysemic lupus, as had been suggested in America — or any other significant health problem.

Silicone implants are available in different types: the smooth-skinned variety, which seems to be more likely to induce a local reaction, capsular contracture and a resultant hard breast, or ones with a textured outer shell, which reduces the incidents of contracture to between 2 and 4 per cent. The silicone gel filling an implant may either be the consistency of thick oil, or of an uncooked jelly — cohesive silicone gel — which is molded into shape and is unlikely to leak. Saline-filled implants are also used but have to be placed under the pectoralis muscle and look less natural.

Women who have had trouble from their Translucent implants are likely to fare as well as Elsie. She married Harry, lived to an old age and never suffered any breast disease.



Chanel, saddle soap and the Gold Cup

Venetia Williams — once dubbed a racing mix of Margaret Thatcher and Princess Diana — has overcome all odds to emerge as a serious challenger to the leading male trainers in the world of National Hunt racing. Interview by **Jason Cowley**

An aura of mystery and intrigue surrounds Venetia Williams. In less than three years she has risen from relative anonymity to become the most exciting trainer in National Hunt racing, the trainer of this season's wonder horse, the grey chaser Teeton Mill, and the envy of the Lambourn set. In the closed, incestuous, overwhelmingly male world of National Hunt racing, she is something new and different: a young, attractive, single woman who works and lives at her stables in Ross-on-Wye, from where she has emerged to challenge the supremacy of the leading male trainers, attracting wealthy owners to her operation.

Her remarkable strike rate, averaging one winner every three races, has not been bettered even by the champion trainer Martin Pipe. And in one season she has transformed Teeton Mill from a promising hunter-chaser to a champion horse of the highest quality. Perhaps even a truly great horse to rank alongside another grey, Desert Orchid (the record-breaking grey, now retired, remains much-loved by punters). Teeton Mill has, in the past four months, won the Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury and the King George VI Chase at Kempton Park, and he is favourite for the Cheltenham Gold Cup next week, the highlight of the National Hunt season.

No horse has done the triple since Arkle in 1963-64. And there is still the Grand National to go for next month, a race in which Williams has another runner among the favourites, General Wolfe.

At the recent Martell Grand National weights luncheon at the Four Seasons Hotel, in Park Lane, Central London, it was hard to find someone who did not have an opinion about Williams. From the grizzled racing editors of the national papers to the pundits, from the leading bookmakers to the BBC broadcasters Des Lynam and John Inverdale, everyone, it seemed, was talking about her. Why isn't she married? they whispered. Is Teeton Mill carrying an injury? What is her secret?

The woman herself seemed gloriously unaffected by all the speculation, swapping jokes with the former jockey-turned-broadcaster Richard Pitman and fighting her way through a scrum of reporters eager for news about Teeton Mill. Later, sitting in an empty bar, she spoke of how startled she was by her progress.

"To be honest, the whole thing has taken me over. When I started I had nine horses and now, in three years, I have more than 60, far more than I ever imagined. It's frightening. I've never been in this ballpark before. I'm struggling to stand back and look at it objectively. I haven't really had a lead-in period, so quickly have I come from relative obscurity to training the Gold Cup favourite."

Stephen Winstanley, the founder of Winning Line, which owns Teeton Mill, has called Williams a "racing mix of Margaret Thatcher and Princess Diana", her character a blend of silk and steel. But the Princess Royal might be a more apt comparison: in person Williams is brusque, direct, self-contained and largely without pretensions, speaking in a clipped, though not excessively posh, English county accent. The veteran trainer Jenny Pitman may be known as the first lady of racing, but she is very much one of the boys: a tough, blunt, hard-smoking, expletive-delivering horsewoman. Williams, with her Chanel handbag and thick black hair, is perfumed and fragrant; she would not be out of place in the pages of *Harpers & Queen*.



RICHARD LEA-HAIR/NEWS TEAM INTERNATIONAL

Setting her cap at the cup: Venetia Williams with the Gold Cup favourite, Teeton Mill. Her strike rate averages a winner every three races

Yet her career almost ended before it began. She was riding as an amateur in a low-key race at Worcester in 1988 when her horse hit the final hurdle, propelling her out of the saddle. She landed on her head on hard ground, breaking the hangman's bone in her neck. "If the bone had been displaced, I'd be 6ft under," she says, laughing. "I was perfectly conscious after the fall and can remember everything, especially the feeling of being paralysed from my neck downwards."

Was there a moment when she thought that she might never walk again?

"At the time you are living so completely in the moment. You're not thinking 'Oh my God, I'm not going to move again'. I can remember feeling the grass against my face but there was no feeling in the rest of my body. After about ten minutes, with people rubber-necking, I started getting pins and needles all the way down my arms and legs. The feeling raised to a great intensity, faded away and then I could feel everything again."

She spent the next three months in traction in hospital at Worcester. The incident concentrated her thinking, coming as it did just weeks after she had been knocked unconscious after falling at Becher's Brook while riding in the Grand National — she was one of the few women to compete in the race before the course was modified.

"A friend from the Jockey Club advised me to give up, reminding me that I wasn't riding to earn my living. You never know how strong the fracture was and what might happen next time." She fleetingly considered returning to secretarial work (she is a 100-words-a-minute shorthand typist) before she began her long apprenticeship as a trainer, working in Australia and the United States, alongside the pioneering Martin Pipe and as an assistant to John Edwards.

The emergence of Williams is exactly what National Hunt racing has been waiting for. The poor relation of the Flat, the embattled winter sport has been buffeted in recent months by race-rigging scandals, unease about excessive use of the whip by certain riders, diminishing prize funds and the agitation of animal rights protesters.

The sport has also been called reactionary and chauvinistic; but Williams will say only: "I've not encountered any problems. I'm a woman, the others are men. So what. I can't see the big deal."

Williams, 35, grew up in the Herefordshire countryside, where she still lives, the daughter of a gentleman farmer. Her grandparents owned and raced horses on the Flat, and both her paternal grandfather and her father were masters of the local hunt — which she is, at first, embarrassed to reveal. "Why?" I ask. "Well," she hesitates, looking at her feet. "I don't know if you can talk about hunting these days. People get frightfully excited about it and take terrible offence. And it's true that we do make enormous demands on our horses, perhaps in a slightly unnatural way, because after all we are training them to win races, to be fitter and go faster than any of their rivals. But I suppose saying my father was a master of a hunt is not on a par with Mr Hoddle's comments. At least, I hope not." She raises her head, smiling.

One wonders how much Williams's remarkable rise has cost her, how much she has had to sacrifice on the altar of her ambition. She concedes that her work is gruelling, and that she has "little time for anything else". A typical day begins at 6.30am when, assisted by her head lad, she feeds each of her horses. "Then I ride out with the first lot of horses. If a particular horse is entered for a race the following day, I decide whether to run it or not; then I might go racing, which could mean travelling to the other side of the country. If I'm not going racing, I spend time on the gallops and then work in the office, watching races on the Racing Channel, talking to owners and organising stuff." Organising stuff — administration work and grappling with the logistics of running an expanding stables — can be the most demanding part of her day, and she often works long into the night.

"It can be a demanding and tiring life," she says. "I live alone, I have no family, although my secretary lives in the granny annexe on the site. Most of the time I'm working very late and I feel quite isolated at times. The whole thing has run away with me really, with more and more owners attracted to the stables. Sometimes I feel like saying 'Hold on, no more'."

So what of the rumours surrounding Teeton Mill's fitness in the febrile run-up to the Gold Cup on March 18? He won at Ascot on February 20, and Williams says that he is fine. "In fact, he bit me the other morning. I was feeling his legs, which I do to all the horses when I feed them, to check that their tendons are not inflamed, and he bit me on the bottom."

There are many men who would want to do the same, I joke, such are the hazards of being the talented trainer of a champion grey.

Why I went to a sex party

Nadine Williams wanted sex — but not a relationship. So she found herself enjoying a sensual evening with 300 guests

When Carrie, of Channel 4's *Sex and the City*, said she wanted to have sex "the way men do", there was a gasp of recognition from women. A year ago I was expressing the same desire, so I did something about it — I went to a sex party.

I am an attractive, intelligent, professional, single woman — just like the characters in the series — and I wanted an experience free from guilt, angst, shame and commitment. That is exactly what I got, and I have no regrets.

But where Carrie et al are motivated by bitterness at men's perceived perfidy — they want to turn the tables on the guys — I just wanted sex without a relationship. So I chose the most direct route to fulfil that desire.

I was recently divorced, on the wrong side of 35, with three children to bring up. I was working sporadically (as a part-time broadcast journalist) and had no chance to go out in the evening. My chances of meeting a man were slim. One side-effect of being a mother at home on your own can be the loss of self-confidence; I began to doubt my own attractiveness as it was not being verified by others. I knew I needed to have one-on-one human contact.

This mixture of sexual frustration, lack of opportunity and self-doubt continued until I read an article in a magazine about people with alternative views of the world. One, a performance artist, mentioned going to sex parties where he enjoyed group sex, tantric sex, voyeurism — the works. A contact number was given for an organisation that ran parties in London. I wrote, and ended up on the mailing list. None of the events struck a chord with me (many took the form of demonstrations calling for Britain's antiquated sex laws to be scrapped) until a flyer came through for an all-night garden party in Hampstead, North London. Couples and singles were invited, tickets



EDWARD HOLUB / PHOTONICA

Swinging partners: "People were making positive choices"

cost £20 for entrance, buffet, soft drinks and entertainment. An open-minded female friend was happy to come along, more out of curiosity than a desire to have sex with strangers.

We were filled with trepidation as we made our way to the house off Bishops Avenue, a road that has more millionaires than you can shake a stick at. We had convinced ourselves the party would be full of dirty old men: the ugly, the stinking, the desperate and the drooling. We feared we would be the only "normal" people there, that the only other women would be prostitutes, that we could be in danger, that the police would raid the joint, that our mugshots would be slapped on the front of the *News of the World*, that our families would find out, and that our whole worlds would crumble. Did any of the above happen? No.

The large, semi-detached house had six bedrooms, suffused with dim pink lighting. The walls and ceiling were draped in gauzy material. There was a smell of incense, dreamy ambient music played and candles flickered. I had expected sleaze; instead I found a sensuous, laid-back atmosphere. There were some 300 partygoers present, comprising heterosexual couples, gay couples and straight and gay singles. Some people wore suits or dresses, others were dressed in leather and rubber, fur and feathers. Some were having sex in shadowy corners, others were chatting or dancing. There were also private rooms for couples only.

The participants were overwhelmingly professional. I spoke to a physiotherapist, a doctor-turned-businessman, a mature student doing an MA in politics, a computer programmer and an architect. All said that what they got from the parties was not necessarily sex but a feeling of liberation at being among like-minded people, all of whom were free of sexual hang-ups, who simply wanted to relax. They found the parties destressed them, just as alcohol, smoking, sports or recreational drugs might do for others.

Any sex that did take place was entirely consensual, and there were strict rules about women being treated with respect and courtesy. (Single men find it hardest to have a sexual encounter at these events as they greatly outnumber the women.) As one of the few women without a male partner, I was treated with a huge amount of fuss by some good-looking, intelligent and articulate men. It sounds facile, but that alone helped me to regain my confidence.

Some may say swingers trivialise sex, that it should be a sacred union between a man and a woman for the purpose of procreation. Others may say I was naive, that I saw only what I wanted to see, that the women there were pressurised into attending by their boyfriends or husbands bent on titillation to pep up a stale relationship. I cannot swear blind that that is not true. But I saw people making a positive choice that was not harming anyone else; the women entered into the spirit of things as enthusiastically as the men. There were free condoms and a lot of laughter.

As long as one goes to these parties with a clear head about what they entail — sex for recreation, no more, no less — I believe that they serve a useful outlet for the tensions of everyday life. They are an escape.

Maybe I am being superficial, and when I believed I was suffering from sexual frustration what I really wanted was to be loved. Because, as we all know, sex is easy, love is hard. But I got what I felt I needed at the time with no harm done to anyone, least of all myself.



CARTOONS

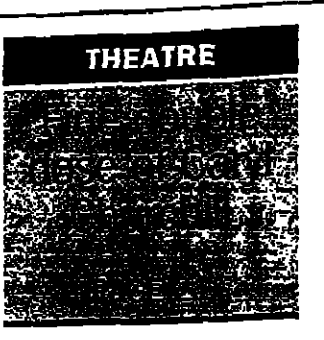
At a bookshop near you, a mural rises

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THEATRE

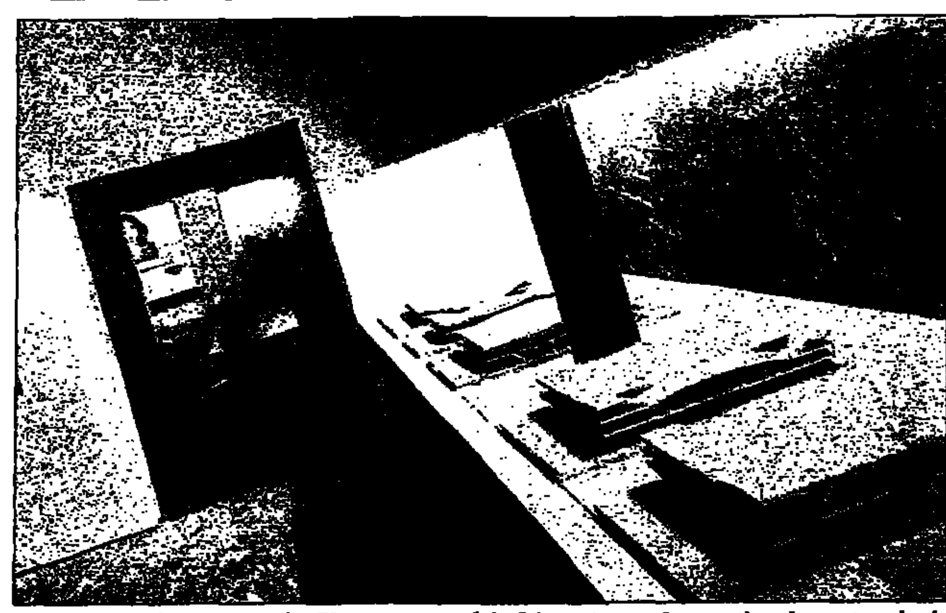




Utopia is reborn a mile in the air

Or so the architects displayed in two provocative Glasgow shows would have you think. **Marcus Binney** reports

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID CHURCHILL



Yokohama's future starts in Glasgow: a model of Japan's new international port terminal

Visionary architects dream of building in impossible places. None more so than **Frank Lloyd Wright**, whose work is on show in a fantastic exhibition at the Kelvingrove Museum as part of *Glasgow 1999*, Glasgow's Year of Architecture. One proposed house is perched on the edge of a giant meteor crater, another on a man-made spur over the Pacific with a series of telescopic echo chambers designed to amplify the sound of waves crashing against the rocks below.

An impressive number of these designs were actually built, most famously Wright's house at Fallingwater. David De Long, the show's organiser, says that Wright's clients, the Kaufmanns, were astounded. "They expected the house would be looking at the waterfall, not sitting on top of it."

High on a rocky hillside near Phoenix, Wright built a house to which ecologists would surely object today. But he bedded it so well in the terrain that there is no evident scar. Wright worshipped nature and his drawings are full of instructions to leave plants and trees undisturbed.

What makes this show so spellbinding is the number of visionary drawings that look as futuristic today as when they were new in the 1950s. As this is a travelling show, they are not the originals (which could not endure such long exposure to light) but back-lit colour photographs, all the actual size of the architect's large presentation drawings.

The originals are preserved in Wright's studio at Taliesin. All were approved by Wright, but some are clearly the work of apprentices working under his direction, with touches (such as greenery) added by the maestro. His drawings are actually more arresting in this illuminated form, as is evident from the throng of visitors absorbed in the displays.

There are also a remarkable number of first-class models, including one for Wright's (unbuilt) tapering mile-high skyscraper, the forerunner of the kilometre-high tower that Sir Norman Foster is seeking to build in Tokyo Bay.

The theme is "the living city". Wright's own Utopia where often huge buildings are carefully spaced in open country. Here are his archetypes for every activity — offices, churches, schools, shopping, the arts and leisure, as well as individual houses and blocks of apartments. It's a solution that might work in the American West, where there is lots of space, and would indeed be better than, say, the unending sprawl that is covering north Italy from Milan to Venice. But it would require draconian planning powers of the type that architects tend to be the first to attack.

> ‘Not resolved here is what sort of a mess these megalomaniac projects will make of the planet’

Architecture on a giant scale is also the theme of *Glasgow 1999*'s other big show, **Vertigo**, which looks in detail at ten major projects around the world that have been conceived by developers and politicians as much as by architects. Devised by the critic Rowan Moore and architects Caruso St John, it is set against soaring walls of white plasterboard installed in the Victorian Old Fruitmarket and intended as a foretaste of the new Tate Gallery at Bankside.

It is done in a scrupulously neutral way, leaving the visitor to decide what is class and what is kitsch. Hacienda housing for the rich and the latest themed shopping malls in America alternate with Foster's new Hong Kong Airport and Richard Rogers's Millennium Dome. And it shows that the new commercial centre of Shanghai has a classic of skyscraper design in the shape of the World Financial Centre, now rising to the design of Kohn Pedersen Fox.

Though it has been unkindly compared to a chisel, it ingeniously changes shape through 94 floors, beginning as a square, becoming a hexagon and ending up a blade. The huge hole at the top was conceived for a Ferris wheel, which proved impractical at such a height, but it will give China's new super-rich the chance to boast that they can fly a helicopter through the eye of the proverbial needle.

Another stunning project is the Duisburg-Nord park in Germany's Ruhr region. In Britain we have systematically cut up most of our rusting steel mills for scrap. The Rhinelanders have preserved them as monuments, turning them into attractive places by planting thousands of trees so they take on the aspect of a set for the palace in *Sleeping Beauty*. A series of summer events is held there and it's possible to climb 80ft up the walkways which served for inspecting the blast furnaces.

Strangest of all is the port terminal designed for Yokohama in Japan. The hope is that it will be as sensationally sculptural as the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao.

It's fashionable in architectural circles to despise Disney but applaud Las Vegas. This exhibition puts the spotlight on the latest American themed shopping malls. Yet what exactly is the difference between Disney and a plastic-looking magic grapevine at Ontario Mills in Los Angeles, with lipstick-coloured grapes and toadstools for children to sit on? Except that Disney does it better.

Not resolved here (though the book of the exhibition goes deeper) is just what sort of a mess some of these megalomanic projects are making of the planet. Go to Macau. Around a peninsula that, a few years ago, was as verdant as the Cap d'Antibes they are simply tipping mountains into the sea, creating flat building land for rows of abysmal close-packed apartments that it would be an insult to call barrack blocks. Here, alas, are the slums of tomorrow. Last summer, at the International Union of Architects, I heard furious German critics denounce Europe's top architects for happily designing China's new Utopias without a thought for the hundreds of thousands of people who would be turned out of their homes for these new office developments.

By mounting such ambitious and thought-provoking shows, Glasgow's Festival of Architecture highlight's London's dismal performance in this area. If the V&A wants to be taken seriously as the patron of new architecture (as the Libeskind Spiral suggests it does) it should put on challenging exhibitions on the subject, like the campaigning heritage shows of the 1970s. So should the Royal Academy and even more the new Tate Gallery at Bankside.

● Glasgow 1999 *information: 0141-287 1999.* Frank Lloyd Wright *is at Kelvingrove until April 11;* Vertigo *is at the Old Fruitmarket until May 16*



Shapes of things to come: models of the new Bankside Tate Gallery are included in Glasgow's Vertigo show of ten major projects around the world

The burghers of Hampstead are up in arms about their local theatre's plans to expand. **Dalya Alberge** reports

Why must the show go on?

The Hampstead Theatre, the North London playhouse which has staged groundbreaking productions since the 1960s, is shrugging off fierce public objections to its planned multimillion-pound expansion in Swiss Cottage, financed with government and National Lottery money. In a case that could have wide implications for other lottery projects, Hampstead residents do not want as much as £20 million spent on a redevelopment that could threaten local facilities.

What angers them is that green open space on a site roughly the size of a football pitch is being threatened. Their park may be small, they say, but it is still a place in which to breathe and where the elderly and mothers with prams can stroll. Furthermore, locals fear that an all-weather sports pitch, a children's playground, a community centre and a street market will make way for a massively expanded theatre with little relevance for most people in the community.

Even some of those who enjoy theatre share this view, accepting that there must be priorities for local resources: for example, the onsite community centre — which caters for 50,000 people a year — receives just £800 in annual subsidy from the public purse. Camden council's planning approval ran into strong criticism when two councillors were found to be on the theatre board and to have voted for the plan despite being told by the council's legal advisers to stand aside.

James Williams, the Hampstead's general manager, says the 39-year-old building will not survive more than three years because it is "falling apart" from subsidence and wet and dry rot. Building a new construction on the same site is impossible, he argues, because it is too small to meet modern regulations. Expansion on a site containing the park and sports ground is the only option, he claims.

The theatre cannot say how much — except to the nearest £10 million — the scheme could cost. The lottery has already awarded nearly £1 million to take the theatre "through to a design stage". The firm of architects selected has never built a theatre before, but the theatre says that the firm's approach was "compatible" with its vision. Like the local council, it insists that an alternative open space will be found.

The local community is less than convinced. John Breckon, the managing director of a City conference business, says that developers in the City have shown just how to tackle a limited space: "They dig down into the foundations and put up brilliant new buildings. You can do a lot with the space you've got." Although a theatregoer, he expresses concern that the proposals will put the new open space nearer to the congested main road.

Pauline Marriott, a retired training officer, fears that the proposed space will be blighted by noise and fumes, while a paved area with a few planted trees will do little for the community. "The theatre will take up the better part of the site, destroying the children's playground, greenery and, worse still, the green outlook of elderly residents [in nearby sheltered housing], many of them housebound," she says.

Another resident says: "It's the cost that's so staggering. There's not exactly a shortage of theatres in London; we're within three miles of all the West End theatres. But there is a shortage of green space and sports grounds."

The theatre's claim that 60 per cent of the community favours the scheme is widely disputed. Diana Self, a retired business consultant, says that most of the 300 members of her residents' association objected to it, although they support a renovated theatre on its existing plot.

PETER TREVNOR



Under fire: the 39-year-old Hampstead Theatre is falling apart, says its general manager

BUILDING A LIBRARY

A guide to the best classical CDs, in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

■ **SCHUMANN'S KREISLERIANA**

Reviewed by Iain Burnside

"PLAY my *Kreisleriana* sometimes," Robert Schumann wrote to the 19-year-old Clara Wieck. "You'll find a wild, unbridled love there, together with your life and mine, and many of your glances."

Schumann pinched the title for these eight Fantasies from a writer close to his heart: E.T.A. Hoffmann, who had given the name to a collection of short stories dominated by a rampaging composer he called Johannes Kreisler. At 28 Schumann already had two fantasy personas of his own: dynamic Florestan and wistful Eusebius.

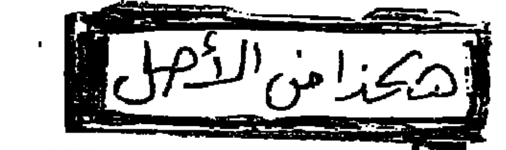
Welcoming Hoffmann's deranged Kapellmeister into the family of alter egos came quite naturally. While on one level *Kreisleriana* is Schumann's *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, on another it is a love letter to Clara, the woman he was forbidden to see. "When you recognise yourself in my *Kreisleriana*," he told her, "you'll smile to yourself, a gentle, fond smile."

The challenge for interpreters of *Kreisleriana* is to capture this private tenderness as well as the driven, demonic intensity that gallops by its side. Radu Lupu and Martha Argerich excel in the sinister nocturnal world that Schumann made his own. With his pearl-like beauty of sound and the crystal clarity of his vision **Murray Perahia** (Sony Classical SK 62786, £15.99) is a revelation in a different way, placing places *Kreisleriana* as an *early* Romantic masterpiece.

Earlier generations of pianists are strongly represented with Alfred Cortot, Wilhelm Kempff and two different recordings by Vladimir Horowitz. The recording that haunts me most, though, straddles old and new: the great Hungarian pianist **Annie Fischer**, recorded in 1964, captures Schumann's inner eloquence as memorably as the fire of his passion (EMI CZS 5 68733-2, a two-CD set including Schubert, Beethoven and Bartók available only through EMI's Special Import Service). She may be less pianistically dazzling than some, but part of her achievement is to sound less like a pianist than a great conductor.

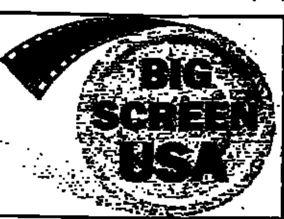
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Next Saturday on Radio 3 (11am): Handel's Water Music



De Niro's genius is as clear as Crystal

In *Analyze This* the great player of mobsters plays — surprise! — a mobster. **Giles Whittell** awards points




It's hard to know where to begin with Robert De Niro. The cleft in his forehead that he seems to switch on and off with his eyebrows is one possibility. The beauty spot on his right cheek is another. The arched catfish mouth that means he's unhappy is yet another, and there is always his casual talent for inhabiting shiny suits.

But in the presence of the master a moment's seriousness is called for. The starting point for a ritual hagiography of the most talented actor of his generation must be the fact that he is merely an actor. Much as we would like him to be the *actual* face of organised crime (*The Godfather, Part II; The Untouchables; Goodfellas*), or of high-level political troubleshooting (*Wag the Dog*), or even of honest detective work (*Cop Land*), the deflating truth is that De Niro is only pretending. There is plenty of evidence that this make-believe is less of a stretch in his gangster films than in his others — he has done it well and often and, as a lifelong resident of New York's Little Italy, he bathes daily in its mutant vowels and antique priorities.

If so, his hilarious turn in **Analyze This** as a vexed Mob *capo* in search of a shrink must have been one of the easiest roles of his life. And yet no one else could have carried it off. He plays Paul Vitti, immaculate on the outside but crippled mentally by midlife anxiety attacks. Faced with a snivelling lowlife waiting to be clobbered over the head with a lead pipe, he cannot bring himself to clobber. Given a clear shot at a hitman who just tried to kill him, he cannot shoot. Humping grimly on top of his mistress in an hotel room, he cannot, as he puts it, "*do* this here". And watching a commercial about fatherly investment advice, he weeps.

These are life-threatening lapses, given the game he's in — one that tolerates not a whiff of weakness in a leader at the best of times. And these are not good times. Brooklyn's crime families are circling each other nervously and "on top of everything else you've got these Chinese and these crazy Russians to deal with".

Vitti's saviour, and De Niro's foil, is the grey-bearded, silken-tongued Dr Ben Sobel, alias Billy Crystal. He bumps into Vitti's gang literally, rear-ending two of them in a traffic jam and getting off lightly in return for not noticing a gagged body in their boot. Quicker than it takes to say "we know where your Mom lives", he is forced to take on an unwelcome new patient with the aim of making him "a happy, well-adjusted gangster". This proves hard. When told about Freud and the Oedipal myth, for instance, Vitti's first response is "f***ing Greeks".

The conceit in *Analyze This* is simple and not even original; HBO has a hit TV series called *The Sopranos* running along the same hoodlums-in-therapy lines. But the execution is the best Hollywood can buy. De Niro brings to the part all the coiled intensity that emptied most journalists' cliché files years ago. He plays the whole thing as straight as his perfect nose and leaves the comedy entirely to timing. True, his performance zings with echoes of the unfunny and very violent *Goodfellas*, but this only seems to crank it up tighter. What it amounts to, as Janet Maslin wrote in *The New York Times* (meaning it in the nicest possible way), is "one long wink at the viewer".

Crystal resists the impulse to do much winking of his own. As a head doctor in constant dread of sleeping with the fishes he is, if anything, even more deadpan than De Niro. An *Entertainment Weekly* critic suggested Crystal was "awed by his formidable co-star" into an unusually controlled performance, which is typical of the churlish press that tends to follow Crystal like a shadow. He is almost always funny and almost always gets a bum rap, mainly because he makes it look too easy.

The laughs flow easily in *Analyze This*. The tricky part, plot-wise, is squeezing Vitti into Sobel's marriage schedule. It falls to *Friends*' Lisa Kudrow to resist this as the doctor's exasperated fiancée, and even with a thin part she proves a cut above most sitcom graduates. Joe Viterelli, meanwhile, as a memorable blob-like enforcer called Jelly, extracts Kudrow's groom whenever his boss needs him. Thanks to Jelly, De Niro gets comfortable with words like "closure" and Crystal does a bravura turn as a mobster, firing from the hip with enough wide-bore psychobabble to cow a barnful of his client's predatory rivals.

Roger Ebert of the *Chicago Sun Times*, America's most powerful critic, decided this film's secret star — the one who makes its comedy more than skin-deep — is actually Viterelli. Others paid tribute to its director, Harold Ramis, who was able to fine-tune the dialogue having been in psychotherapy for years himself.

But the truth is this is De Niro's film, in a different genre but also a different league from *Payback*, the ugly thriller starring Mel Gibson that is also now in wide release. Unlike Gibson's, De Niro's films have never earned huge sums. Indeed, his career box-office gross of $912 million from 50 releases is considered meagre. After this all bets are off.



The charge of the heavy and the light brigades: Robert De Niro and Billy Crystal go successfully for laughs in *Analyze This*, the story of a Mafia boss who loses his love for being bad

US WEEKEND BOX-OFFICE TAKINGS

1	(-)	**Analyze This** (Warner Bros)	$17.7m/—
2	(-)	**Cruel Intentions** (Columbia)	$13.2m/—
3	(1)	**8mm** (Columbia)	$7m/$14.3m
4	(3)	**The Other Sister** (Touchstone)	$5.6m/$6.6m
5	(2)	**Payback** (Paramount)	$4.1m/$66.4m
6	(6)	**October Sky** (Universal)	$3.7m/$12m
7	(5)	**My Favourite Martian** (Disney)	$3.6m/$25.9m
8=	(4)	**Message in a Bottle** (Warner)	$3.4m/$41.3m
8=	(7)	**Shakespeare in Love** (Miramax)	$3.4m/$60.1m
10	(8)	**She's All That** (Miramax)	$2.6m/$54m

● *First amount is estimated weekend takings, Mar 5-7. Second amount is total takings to Mar 2. Figure in brackets indicates last week's position*

Nigel Cliff on the Danish film directors who have rewritten the rulebook

Dogma of the reigning cats

Here's a novel way to whip up publicity for your difficult low-budget movie. Issue a statement asserting that film is dead and you are its saviour. Attach a ten-point manifesto setting forth how things should really be done. Be very circumspect about how seriously you take it all. And, finally, come up with a couple of refreshingly original films which go on to win awards around the world.

For the past few months Thomas Vinterberg and Lars von Trier, the directors respectively of *Festen* (now on release) and *The Idiots* (out next month), have been leading the world a merry dance. No one has been quite sure just how seriously to take these two eminently plausible but — surely — slightly crazy Danes.

Their "Dogme 95" programme is a self-styled "rescue mission" for cinema which argues the virtues of no-frills film-making. Like an order of filmic Freemasons, its rituals include a Vow of Chastity, a Certificate of Compliance, a Confession of Transgressions



Thomas Vinterberg, rebel director of the hit, *Festen*

and a Plea for Absolution. "The movie was dead and called for resurrection," intones the mission statement, dismissing the new wave as "a ripple that washed ashore and turned to muck" and the concept of the auteur as mere "bourgeois romanticism".

In their place is a set of ten rules which insists, in part, that all shooting must be done on location, with no brought-in props or sets; that the sound must be recorded along with the images; that only hand-held cameras are allowed; that the film must be in colour and that no special lighting can be used. To cap it all, the director must not be credited.

At first sight, trussing yourself up in ten inviolable commandments seems like an odd way to go about trying to break free from convention. At a press conference held at the Danish Embassy last November several reporters wondered why the Dogme manifesto was so — well, dogmatic. To Vinterberg's chagrin, even the director of the London Film Festival labelled the project "semi-absurd".

The brothers of the Dogme order (as they will insist on calling themselves) must be laughing up their sleeves. Of course the hyperbole is a bit of fun. "I swear as a director to refrain from personal taste," goes the creed. "I am no longer an artist." Fat chance: Vinterberg happily admits that both *Festen* and *The Idiots* "became the most personal films we've done". His influences — Bergman, Coppola, Roeg — fairly jump off the screen. Moreover, he found that the rules gave his cast rather too much freedom. "They felt a bit insecure, so I had to invent other ways to limit them."

But underneath all the pomposity, there is much that is sensible about the movement. Its purpose, says Vinterberg, is simply to question the need for the vast paraphernalia that has grown up around directors, to avoid what he calls "autopilot film-making". If you want to get away from ingrained norms, he says sensibly, you have to give yourself a contrary set of rules.

It may all sound a bit Luddite, but it seems to have worked. The raw material of *Festen* — the tensions of a family gathering, the shocking revelation of abuse — are well served by the virtual absence of the usual post-production trickery and the confused, grainy intimacy recorded by the hand-held video camera.

Vinterberg claims that the other vows, too, were more liberating than restricting. The novel idea of bringing the camera to the actors rather than vice versa, he suggests, encouraged ensemble acting in place of set-piece grandstanding. "They had to act to each other and not to the camera," he says. He is right: watching this tortured celebration is uncomfortably akin to intruding on private grief.

But, Vinterberg insists, the most important feature of Dogme films is that they are honest to what was shot, that they forge a sense of immediacy between actors and audience. "Movies have been cosmeticised to death," he contends. (He means this literally: the use of make-up is forbidden.) "Here, all that you see took place."

So what comes next? Inevitably, something completely different. "This whole project is about renewal. Making another Dogme film right afterwards would be very boring," Vinterberg says. Von Trier, too, has deserted the order to make a big-budget extravaganza starring the singer Björk. Definitely not a Dogme film — it even has a soundtrack.

Happily, though, there are others to carry the torch. As well as two other Danish directors, three new converts, one Swedish, one French and one American, have taken their vows. The founders now find themselves the proud possessors of an academy, ready to certify films for their Dogmeness. You sense they are pleasantly surprised.




Nicolette Jones finds out why Ottakar's chain of bookshops has signed up cartoonist Chris Burke to change the local face of its 63 branches

Cartoon king of a bookish Bohemia

If you go into an Ottakar's bookshop in Bury St Edmunds or Chelmsford, Portsmouth, Huddersfield or Carlisle, you will see around the shop several substantial murals of caricatured writers, drawn in the Searle/Scarfe/Steadman tradition. Faces you may or may not recognise range from Bill Bryson and Balzac to Palin and Proust.

In each of these towns, the mural behind the till is a unique composition of local luminaries and places of interest, making the shop itself a place of artistic interest. All these works are by the hand of cartoonist Chris Burke, who has found in the bookshop chain (63 branches, all eventually to be adorned by his draughtsmanship) a patron which will offer an outlet for his work for years to come.

Ottakar's bookshops — located in towns rather than big cities — were founded ten years ago by James Heneage, whose father, Simon, happens to be a cartoon collector as well as the author of various dictionaries of cartoonists and the founder of the Cartoon Arts Trust. Simon owns Britain's largest collection of contemporary cartoons, and houses it in a barn beside his home in Somerset. Indeed, when James established his bookshop chain, he gave it a name he found in a cartoon strip: reading Tintin in the bath, he found a reference to King Ottakar of Bohemia who, thanks to Hergé's careful research, really existed. As a consequence, Ottakar's celebrated its tenth birthday by taking its bookshop managers to Prague, the capital of Bohemia and birthplace of two kings called Ottakar. And Heneage's grateful staff presented him there with four first editions of Tintin.

It is not surprising, then, that when Ottakar's sought to rebrand the chain (which had hitherto operated as if it were a collection of independent shops, with a lot of decentralised power — still a strength) it crossed Heneage's mind to use a cartoonist to give the branches a uniform look. While the common ground would be the cartoonist's style, each branch could have a custom-made work, and the artist, on principle, was to have a fairly free hand. There was a precedent for this: Oddbins off-licences had employed Ralph Steadman for some 15 years, and what suited the bibulous would, it was thought, suit the bibliophile.

The art director of Ottakar's original design company, DIN, found Burke in the *Contact* directory, which is to artists what *Spotlight* is to actors. When he and Heneage were introduced, they hit it off, and Burke had found his Lorenzo de Medici after 14 years of freelancing. It is a rare sinecure. Burke himself had worked briefly for a wine merchant, illustrating its catalogue, but he can think of no other comparable instances of commercial patronage.

> 'He originally depicted Jilly Cooper as a horse'

When a company takes on an artist like this, you might expect the creative impulses to be subjugated to corporate interests. But Burke's heroes, notably Lautrec and Daumier, worked to commissions. And he has found Ottakar's a benign patron, giving him more artistic freedom than he had when he worked for the press. He remembers, for instance, once being asked by a newspaper to make Jeffrey Archer "look less like a weasel" (Archer later bought the artwork of the revised version, and Burke, who only stuck on Archer's more cherubic portrait with spray mount, fantasises that one day, in mid-dinner party, the revision will fall off, exposing the weaselly original to Archer and his guests).



Three of the murals Chris Burke has produced for Ottakar's bookshops (themselves named from the Tintin cartoon strip): above, *Tea on Lawn*; below, *Bar Flies* (left) and *Cauldron*



Five themed murals have been produced for Ottakar's, and will be placed in part or in their entirety in a variety of shops. They group writers at a tea party, in a bar, on a farm, at a station (the travel writers), and in a witch's lair (the fantasists). Burke has a trick of fusing author and creation into one image, so that, for instance, Mary Shelley is shown in his murals with Frankenstein's monster bolts through her own neck, Kafka is a beetle, Ted Hughes is a crow, Agatha Christie has been stabbed, Anne Rice is a vampire.

Sometimes this device teeters precariously on the brink of controversy. Jean-Paul Sartre is (very successfully) a frog, "because he looks like one", but there is the dangerous implication of a national slur. Salman Rushdie peeps out of a boiling cauldron he shares with Edgar Allen Poe and Robert Louis Stevenson, his hair in devilish tufts. And — in the one instance of Ottakar's requesting an alteration — Jilly Cooper, author of *Riders* and *Polo*, is depicted as a horse.

Heneage has asked Burke to change this image, because, he says, "while I know Jilly Cooper is renowned for her sense of humour this may be pushing it a bit far". Burke, who is unoffended by the compromise, comments: "The whole thing of caricature is that you have to upset someone a little bit. But I think I'm neither very savage nor very political."

Burke is currently decorating Ottakar's new shops with individual local murals as they open, at a rate of 15 branches a year. But as the existing shops come up for a refit, he will tackle them too. Which means his commission will be like painting the Forth Bridge. He is also working on a mural for the children's sections (a priority in Ottakar's shops) and has drawn a machine for the Science Museum bookshop that recalls Heath Robinson — who is well represented in Simon Heneage's collection. Added to this, he is responsible for posters for special promotions, and 120 drawings for Christmas catalogues.

He will be busy for the foreseeable future. Only a select few will own a Burke that is not destined for a bookshop, among them the fellow cast members of any play performed in by Dawn French. She is a friend, and at the end of every play she commissions cast drawings by Burke as presents.

Burke also draws, gratis, the posters for French's husband Lenny Henry's charity work. "How much do you get for these gigs?" Burke asked Henry when he first got involved. "Nothing," said Henry. "Well, I'll take half of what you get," said Burke. Perhaps the benign patron is Burke's reward.

Star turns trip out of town

DANCE

Royal Ballet Cambridge

One of the benefits of the Royal Opera House's temporary closure has been the increased presence of the Royal Ballet in the regions. For two years in a row the company has mounted two Dance Bites tours, bringing star dancers and new ballets to provincial audiences. At the Corn Exchange in Cambridge on Thursday, two new works formed half of a programme that afforded plenty of dancing for some of the less familiar faces at the Royal Ballet, along with a showcase for two of Britain's most famous ballerinas.

For those who know Darcey Bussell only from television, here was a chance to see her on stage. Frederick Ashton's *Monotones*, a pair of serene trios set to Satie's *Trois Gnossiennes* and *Trois Gymnopedies*, seem to be all leg. And who better than Bussell, with her voluptuous extensions, to plunge into those almighty arabesques? But the ballet, made in the Sixties, is in desperate need of a redesign — even Bussell can't carry off such embarrassing costumes.

Far better to see her in Mark Baldwin's *Towards Poetry*. His new ballet for ten dancers, set to a difficult, spare score by Julian Anderson, is clearly enamoured of Bussell's unique talents but doesn't take them at face value.

Instead, Baldwin produces a ballet of real bite, with a sly Bussell posing as the girl next door with a real mean streak. There is a lot of tension in Baldwin's showy choreography and a catty interplay between Bussell and her spirited opposition, Laura Morera. Deborah Bull, meanwhile, has the sexiest duet of the evening, a sultry dance coupling with Inaki Urlezaga called *Walk and Talk*, choreographed in 1990 by Ashley Page.

The other premiere is William Tuckett's *Love's Fool*, a sweet ballet with an attractive commissioned score from Karl Jenkins. A buttoned-up office manager cannot bring himself to declare his love for a typist. Enter a white-faced Stranger whose mission is to make love happen. Tuckett's choreography uses the fluidity of classical dance and overlays it with the physical bluntness of cartoons. Christopher Saunders is perfect as the boss; Zenaida Yanowsky, as the Girl, possesses a chaste glamour; and Luke Heydon's Stranger is a compassionate, sad-eyed angel.

DEBRA CRAINE

● *This review appeared in some editions of* The Times *on Saturday*

From painters to poets

CONCERTS

CBSO/Rattle Festival Hall

If masterpieces are defined partly by their ability to stand the test of time, it is probably too early to tell what most of the great works of the 1980s will be. Only a few scores speak with the originality and authority to make such status instantly recognisable, but the range of music being covered in *Edge of a dream . . . the 80s*, the latest instalment of the *Towards the Millennium* journey through 20th-century music, should help to make this sorting process clearer.

Saturday's programme by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the first concert of this Eighties jamboree, opened with a work that has "masterpiece" stamped all over it: Lutoslawski's Third Symphony. Simon Rattle, returning to his old orchestra, conducted with all his trademark energy to get playing of fluidity and tension, just what is needed in this luminous score.

From the short, sharp shock of the opening fanfare, a hammering that returns to punctuate the work's big moments, the piece unfolds with a mixture of intense calm and agitation. The symphony, premiered in 1983, is structurally strong but packed full of murmuring detail. Tangential ideas streak off, only to be gathered in again.

Though the three movements run into each other, the solid serenity of the opening is very different from the vigour of the middle and its ferocious climax, and both contrast with the interweaving themes of the third movement that build towards ecstatic waves of sound.

Takemitsu's place in the pantheon of music is harder to assess, but there is no doubting the beauty of his images. In the guitar concerto *To the Edge of Dream*, also dating from 1983, his starting point was the surrealist painter Paul Delvaux, and the work conjures up vivid but fleeting images, as in a dream. John Williams was the soloist, showing the most reflective side of his art.

As a companion piece, Takemitsu composed *Vers, l'arc en ciel, Palma* for the CBSO, and here it was joined by Williams again and by Christine Pendrill, the oboe d'amore soloist. Written in homage to Joan Miró and his homeland, the score has a warmth rare in Takemitsu.

Neither Lutoslawski nor Takemitsu are quintessential Eighties composers, but John Adams is, not least for the Post-Modernism of the diatonic renewal that began in such pieces as his *Harmonium* (1981). A new take on the old Romantic choral work, *Harmonium* sets, and sometimes breaks up, poems by John Donne and Emily Dickinson. With its hypnotic effects and pulsating climaxes it is a powerful score, but there are long-winded passages of the kind Adams has now left behind.

The City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus was on splendid form, and Rattle's exuberance and charisma made this a performance of conviction.

JOHN ALLISON

High in passion

London Sinfonietta Queen Elizabeth Hall

It's not every concert that ends in hand-to-hand combat. But when the work being performed is Jonathan Harvey's mesmerising and rarely-heard *Bhakti* (1982), passions run high. As it begins, by nudging one pitch out of the ether, the smallest sound can introduce a jarring interval. But a hacking cough shattered its crystalline structure, and the offender's neighbours were not amused — and let him know it.

When every timbre is a revelation quiet is crucial and, cougher aside, the QEH audience maintained a breath-held stillness for the 50 minutes the work lasted. Its 12 sections, each prefaced by a Sanskrit hymn, have a pitch centre around which harmonies float. There is a sense of teeming life and ever-widening vistas. A circular narrative moves from silence to delicate athleticism, rising finally to the transcendent "we have gone to the light". James Wood and the London Sinfonietta balanced analytical detail with palpable delight in this surprising, spiritually lofty masterpiece.

From the pacifist *Bhakti*, to Steve Reich's psalmic *Tehilim*, bright with opposing forces: day and night, speech and silence, good and evil, against the patter of tambourine, handclapping, maracas and grounding harmony. In this performance there was an imbalance between the voices — sung by the excellent quartet Synergy — and instrumentalists. Vocals dominated, while strings and keyboards sounded thin and did not maintain impetus. The only whiff of the Eighties in this concert was the orchestra's gaudy waistcoats — looking like period pieces — a charge that cannot be made against either *Bhakti* nor *Tehilim*. Both hover somewhere in the past 40 years, highpoints in the oeuvres of two composers whose spiritual conviction has brought a disciplined urgency to their work. But it is *Bhakti* which gives up its secrets more slowly, and which will have the longer life.

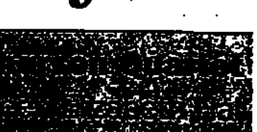
HELEN WALLACE

Well-mannered intensity

A recital by the Emerson String Quartet is always a special event, but their appearance at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Thursday night was notable in two very visible ways. First, the two violinists alternated, so that Philip Setzer led for a Mozart quartet, while Eugene Drucker led for Sibelius and Schubert. Second, the violist, Lawrence Dutton, sat on the extreme right, where you normally expect the cellist to be.

The combined result was of greater than usual projection of the players individually, partly because switching leader keeps everybody on their toes, and partly because the viola's proximity to the audience aids audibility, while David Finckel's big cello tone comes through easily anyway. In Mozart's D Major Quartet, K575, dedicated to the cello-loving King of Prussia, the composer gave the cello part a natural prominence. Finckel rose splendidly to the challenge, raising his voice eloquently above conversational level when required. It was, nevertheless, an impeccably mannered account by the ensemble: elegantly phrased and subtly voiced.

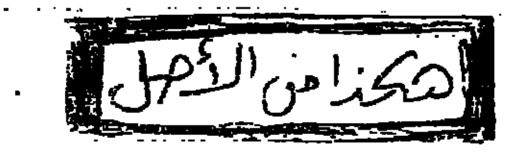
The Sibelius Quartet in D Minor, subtitled *Voces Intimae*, also offers an element of foreboding. The rushing figures and ostinati familiar from Sibelius's symphonic works make their presence felt, especially in the first and



last movements, the end of the latter generating a momentum of great force from these players. The fleet movement of the first of the Scherzos was also impressively delivered, not least in the precision of the silences that interrupt the torrent of notes. The central Adagio was the still heart of the work, its last chord tailing movingly into oblivion.

Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* Quartet neatly combined Mozartian manners and Sibelian intensity. The Emerson's approach is not demonstrative or histrionic, and the obsessiveness of the work is projected by rhythmic means rather than dynamic. This ensemble is also able to draw on a remarkable range of tone colour with a spectral quality exploited particularly tellingly in the slow movement (Death addressing the Maiden in the original Schubert song). A more ethereal tone was found for the fourth, major-key variation, which captured the fragility of this celestial vision. Then came the dance of death finale, its coda not so much a race to the finish as a headlong rush to the abyss.

BARRY MILLINGTON



■ JAZZ
Back to Nigerian roots

ARTS

■ LISTINGS
Keith Waterhouse's latest

Another kettle of fish entirely

When dramatists play tricks with form, grammar and the forward march of time, the result generally feels like following a guide into the Sahara and expiring there from lack of dates. Not so with the astonishing Caryl Churchill, whose diptych of short plays, buoyantly directed by Max Stafford-Clark for Out of Joint, nears the end of its world tour with 20 London performances.

In *Heart's Desire* her characters are trapped in a loop of time, repeating their opening words but darting off down scores of alleys, all of which



lead to dead ends. In the second play the words "blue" and "kettle" increasingly replace ordinary words in the dialogue ("I don't kettle what to blue") until at the end no others are being spoken. Naturally this play is called *Blue Kettle*.

Both plays take us towards dark areas of family discontent, but the risk of aridity is reduced to zero by Churchill's inventive wit. What emerges in the first is a father's inchoate feelings for his daughter, absent in Australia these many years but due back any moment. He, his wife and a faintly dotty sister wait for the doorbell to ring, returning a score of times to the same stretch of barbed domestic chit-chat, until we come to see these variants as some of the fears and fantasies that come to us all while waiting.

Watching Bernard Gallagher, June Watson and Mary Macleod meticulously repeat the same routines of laying cutlery on the table, opening the fridge, patting hair, becomes a source of increasing mirth — and the swift removal of the clutter to restart the scenes becomes just as mirthful — but these "safe" runs of behaviour lead to irrational climaxes that take your breath away. The doors of the kitchen units open and a dozen children scamper out; the doorbell rings and an ostrich prances in. The dialogue loops are gabbled at quick time or reduced to the opening or closing words of the lines. What is in essence a simple, not to say banal, situation has been dramatised into a revelation of indecision and panic.

In *Blue Kettle* Pearce Quigley plays a shifty-eyed conman who hopes to make money by deluding women whose babies were adopted that he is their long-lost son. But is he also doing it to find substitutes for his own, somehow unsatisfactory mother? We are free to think so, as we follow the responses of the elderly women he meets, among whom is a grandly blunt, Dorothy L. Sayers-like Anna Wing.

I am not certain why it is that "blue" and "kettle" swallow everything. Perhaps it is a metaphor for evasion of feeling. But the astonishing effect of distancing us from the reality is to make us attend to its essence more closely, if you blue what I kettle.

JEREMY KINGSTON


MARILYN KINGWILL

Getting the bird: June Watson, Mary Macleod and Bernard Gallagher in *Heart's Desire*, the first of the two Caryl Churchill plays in *Blue Heart*

To a Yoruba heartbeat

One of the many roots of jazz — some would claim the most important — can be traced back through the Caribbean to the Yoruba culture of Nigeria, and Kevin Haynes's Groupo Eleggua was formed in 1992 to explore the connection. Haynes — a percussionist and dancer turned alto saxophonist — travels frequently to Cuba, where the Yoruba religion, Ifa, still flourishes, and the tangible results of his studies, three *Bata* drums, lie at the heart of his band's music.

Beginning their set with an invocatory chant to Eleggua — guardian of the crossroads, symbol of balance — set to the rhythmic throb of these drums, Haynes's band are clearly wholeheartedly committed to acknowledging and utilising the African source of their music. Previous travellers along this path, of course,

JAZZ

include John Coltrane, so it was fitting that the first piece of overt jazz Groupo Eleggua played should have been the great man's *Resolution*, from *A Love Supreme*.

Both Haynes, with a passionately grainy alto solo, and pianist Trevor Watkis, with a more restrained but intriguing contribution, succeeded in imbuing the familiar repeated melody with a suitable mix of fervour and meditativeness. By the time the band launched themselves into a Haynes original, *42nd St Thing*, their energy levels were high.

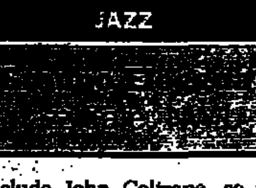
The presence of steel-drum player Wade Austin, however, brought an entirely unexpected texture into the mix, and his rattling yet tuneful solos provided some of the music's most memorable moments.

More boppish fare — a quicksilver theme called *Snap Shot* — followed, Haynes's tart alto slithering over Watkis's clipped piano chords and Daniel Crosby's neatly tumbling drums. But it was with more chanting to *Bata* drum accompaniment that Groupo Eleggua concluded their performance.

Although no whiff of didacticism is discernible in their music, Haynes's band somehow contrive to be both thought-provoking and entertaining — even danceable — and their brand of deeply-felt, multitextured, punchily percussive jazz demands to be more widely heard.

CHRIS PARKER

Pair of raunch hands



Anyone who follows the progress of cabaret in London is used to taking two steps forward and one step back. Take your partner for the supper club waltz.

We all cheered when the Green Room opened its doors again, then watched it slowly turn into a rest home for distressed Seventies pop stars. Now comes news that the much-discussed plans to host the annual New York Cabaret Convention may be undone by financial difficulties. One piece of good news, however, is that a new West End venue seems to have made a confident start.

After opening last week with Peter Straker, the Sunday night season at the Langham Hilton — palm trees and all — is set to continue with a programme including Fascinating Aida's Adele Anderson — a chance for the capital to emulate the glitz of the Carlyle Hotel, home to that Manhattan institution, Bobby Short.

Proceedings took a more theatrical turn last weekend, when Debby Bishop and Kate Harbour unveiled their two-hander *Cissie'n'Sal*, a fast-moving celebration of the art of the gold-digger which offered an excellent excuse to reprise songs of the calibre of *Undecided* and *Fever*.

Bishop, a star of *Blues In The Night* and *Ain't Misbehavin'*, knows this territory intimately. She and the effervescent Harbour swooped onto the stage like a latterday pairing of Jane Russell and Marilyn Monroe, though equipped with a raunchier line in humour than you will ever see in any Technicolor musical.

There was no shortage of double-entendres about keys and keyholes. The breathless storyline, leaping from a hotel bedroom to a nightclub, was flimsy stuff, but Ben Randall's dialogue supplied more than enough sassy one-liners to paper over the cracks. Bishop and Harbour injected raw energy and humour into the songs, occasionally vamping it up among the audience.

The season's musical director, pianist Warren Wills, led a discreet trio which conjured up the louche atmosphere of a Cotton Club in W1. It was not all played for laughs. Bishop delivered a passionate version of Duke Ellington's *I've Got It Bad And That Ain't Good*. Harbour joined her for a moving duet on *Nobody Knows You When You're Down and Out*. Singer Christina Collier takes over next Sunday.

CLIVE DAVIS

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargie

LONDON

SPEER: Klaus Maria Brandauer directs and plays the title role of Hitler's master architect in Esther Vilar's drama. With Sven Eric Bechtolf.
Almeida (0171-359 4404). Opens tonight, 7pm.

20TH-CENTURY MUSIC: Harrison Birtwistle selects three of his own works — one a world premiere — for this concert by the Nash Ensemble where the composer and Nicholas Kok take turns on the podium. Also featured is the first performance of a new version of Debussy's *Trois poèmes de Mallarmé*.
Purcell Room (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm.

NO EXP. REQ'D: Simon Block's new play is a black comedy where two teenage cartoonists are set the task of painting 100 pictures in five days. Part of the Small Drop of Ink A4E season.
Hampstead (0171-722 9301). Previews from tonight, 8pm.

ON THE ROAD TO BAGHDAD: Green Candle Dance Company's in-the-round staging of this tale set in the ancient East fuses dance, theatre, music and circus acts. Fergus Early directs and choreographs a company of 50 plus.
Sadler's Wells (0171-713 6000). Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

ELSEWHERE

CHESTER: Dennis Waterman and Patrick Mower play two scriptwriters whose lives unravel in Keith Waterhouse's new comedy, Bing Bong. Ned Sherrin directs.
Gateway (01244 340392). Opens tonight, 7.45pm.



Raphael Wallfisch joins the RLPO in Preston

MANCHESTER: The virtuoso foursome of the Tokyo String Quartet give their recital an extra lift by performing on Stradivarius instruments. Juxtaposing works from three different periods the evening's programme features Haydn, Webern and Tchaikovsky.
Bridgewater Hall (0161-907 9000). Tonight, 7.30pm.

PRESTON: The fine cellist Raphael Wallfisch joins the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra in a performance of Edouard Lalo's Romantic cello concerto. This is framed by Sibelius's *The Swan of Tuonela* and Rachmaninov's Second Symphony. Petr Altrichter conducts.
Guildhall (01772 258858). Tonight, 7.30pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

□ **SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW:** The excellent Russian clown and mime artist Slava Polunin returns, with new material, new clowns as well as his unforgettable finale.
Piccadilly Theatre (0171-369 1734).

■ **THREE DAYS OF RAIN:** Elizabeth McGovern heads the cast of Richard Greenberg's play, a hit at the Manhattan Theatre Club last year. Robin Lefevre directs this journey back to 1960.
Donmar Warehouse (0171-369 1732).

□ **BLUE HEART:** Caryl Churchill's pair of plays (Heart's Desire and Blue Kettle) express family disruption through tricks with words. Max Stafford-Clark directs for Out Of Joint. See review, left.
Pleasance Theatre (0171-609 1800).

◪ **MACBETH:** Rufus Sewell and Sally Dexter play the superstitious thane and his missus in John Crowley's production.
Queens, W1 (0171-494 5041).

□ **THE WAY OF THE WORLD:** Sam Walters directs his repertory company in Congreve's matchless comedy of manners.
Orange Tree (0181-940 3633).

□ **BARTHOLOMEW FAIR:** Laurence Boswell's jolly production of Ben Jonson's rumbustious comedy transfers from Stratford.
Young Vic (0171-928 6363).

□ **SHOCKHEADED PETER:** The Scissorman is back: wonderfully sinister show by the Cultural Industry team with the Tiger Lillies and Martyn Jacques's falsetto screech.
Lyric (0181-741 8701).

□ **DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN:** Mark Little makes his West End debut in Rob Becker's new comedy, tracing the origins of the man/woman difference back to the caves.
Apollo (0171-494 5070).

◪ **COPENHAGEN:** Heisenberg mysteriously calls on Niels Bohr in wartime Denmark. Michael Frayn's enjoyably intelligent play transfers to the West End. Michael Blakemore directs.
Duchess (0171-494 5075).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

BELOVED (15): Oprah Winfrey is surprisingly powerful as a runaway slave haunted by poltergeists, lynch mobs, and a dead daughter. Jonathan Demme fails, however, to get inside the festering heart of Toni Morrison's Pulitzer Prize winner.

FESTEN (15): Thomas Vinterberg's biting black, Danish farce features a disastrous family reunion. Shot with hand-held cameras, it manages to look spontaneous, ghastly, and deliciously voyeuristic.

KINI & ADAMS (NFT): Idrissa Ouédraogo's African buddy movie is a mostly enchanting parable about two friends who share a dream but fall out over money. Good acting lifts it out of the pulpit.

THE 39 STEPS (U): Hitchcock's witty take on Buchan's ripping yarn is full of fabulous set pieces. Robert Donat's smooth bachelor dashes across Scotland pursued by scampering police and ruthless spies.

CURRENT

THE THIN RED LINE (15): A glittering cast of American soldiers lose their sanity in the South Pacific during the Second World War. With Sean Penn and Nick Nolte.

YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG): Bullet-proof romantic blockbuster with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan who fall in love on the Internet.

TITANIC TOWN (15): Julie Walters excels as a pugnacious Catholic housewife in this grim review of Northern Ireland's Troubles circa 1972. Roger Michell directs.

URBAN LEGEND (18): Dire James Blanks horror flick that slashes through an American campus with the help of a migraine-inducing orchestra.

AFFLICTION (15): Paul Schrader's bruising portrait of a frustrated small-town cop. Nick Nolte and James Coburn put in powerful performances as father and son caught in a cycle of male violence.

THIS YEAR'S LOVE (18): David Kane's buzzy comedy charts the mess six Camden Town misfits make of their love lives among the junk stalls.

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15): Thrilling romantic comedy with a cracking script by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard. Gwyneth Paltrow excels as the Bard's cross-dressing muse. John Madden directs.

A Budget for kids, or child's play?

Stand by today for another exhibition of playground politics

What is a Budget for children? Is it one that encourages us to procreate, perhaps by removing VAT from Spanish Fly or allowing the NHS to distribute Viagra with the same airy nonchalance as it now hands out contraceptives? Or is it one which allows Gordon the Godfather to indulge paternal feelings which his political career has, so far, prevented him from enjoying?

Are the nation's little ones to find that Christmas has come early and the latest Tomb Raider software is to be sent to every household along with an explanation of the Budget package?

The precise nature of what Mr Brown means by a Budget for the kiddies will have to wait until he opens his red box this afternoon, although one could wallpaper Dorneywood with the leaks so far. Looking, however, at the Chancellor's previous Budgets, they are all, in a sense, for children. Mr Brown treats the voters like kids. He asks us to believe he is not, by instinct, a tax-raising Chancellor, and yet he has already increased expenditure in this Parliament by £40 billion. Like the Tooth Fairy in reverse, Mr Brown takes away money while he hopes we're sleeping and trusts we will not notice.

The Chancellor's child-centred approach to Budget statements relies on his audience being insufficiently cynical to appreciate the audacity of his myth-making. He presumes upon our innocent faith that what we see in the headlines is what we will get in our tax bills. But Mr Brown flatters the press in order to deceive the taxpayer.

Michael Gove

He does so by using three tactics. They are applied daily in the nation's playgrounds. The first is the bully's gracious mercy, the second the boaster's grandiose gesture and the third the pickpocket's stealthy grab.

We have been treated to the bully's gracious mercy over the past week. The Chancellor had let it be known that he was considering the taxation of child benefit and a reduction in the married couple's tax allowance. Having thus made middle-class flesh creep, the Treasury then signalled to the press that a reprieve was on the way. In order to avoid "alienating Middle England", any change would be delayed. If the Chancellor does, indeed, forbear to hit thousands of families in the manner advertised, we will be invited to applaud his tender concern. But it is the tender concern of the thug who, after having placed his fist under your chin and then extended his free hand for your wallet, feels moved to desist.

The boaster's grandiose gesture is a technique not restricted to the Treasury. The competition for biggest boaster in the Cabinet is almost as fierce as that for places in Kathryn Blair's secondary school. Robin Cook has a decent claim to the title, with a proudly trumpeted ethical dimension to foreign policy which amounts to giving leaks from select committees to his aides, rather than reading them himself. But, as so often in the past, Robin is beaten to the prize by Gordon Brown.

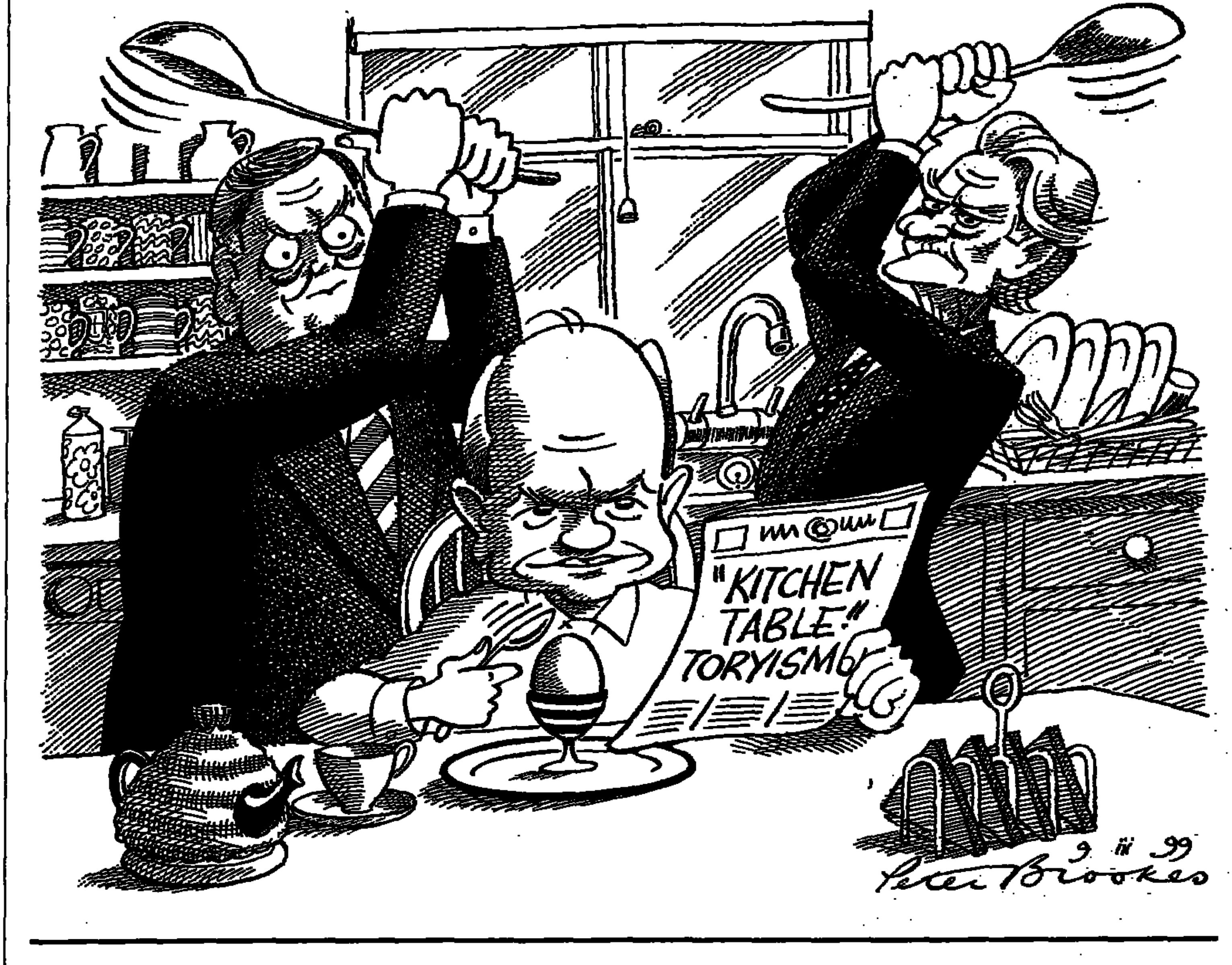
In his pre-Budget leaking, the Chancellor has tried to pose not just as the saviour of the British economy, but the Earth itself. Gordon went Green at the weekend with a proposal to put the environment first. The big idea for our little planet? A lower road tax for smaller cars. By knocking £50 off the price of a tax disc for economical motors, the Chancellor apparently hoped that polluters would trade in their petrol-guzzling Bentleys for Fiat Unos. Mr Brown is addicted to these little bribes for grand reasons. From tax breaks for research and development to the Working Families Tax Credit, little fiscal fiddles are given Capital Letters and a New Era of Social Justice has been inaugurated. My press release is bigger than your press release. This schoolyard boasting is entirely of a piece with a broader strategy of treating voters as children. Do as you're told, and there's a sweetie for you.

It is when it comes to tax rates overall that Gordon's third playground technique comes into play; the pickpocket's stealthy grab. The Shadow Chancellor, Francis Maude, has drawn detailed attention to the "stealth taxes" by which Mr Brown has lined his own pockets after dipping into ours. But don't just take Mr Maude's word for it. The Labour MP Rhodri Morgan, speaking on BBC TV's *On The Record* at the weekend, let the cat out of the bag and then explained how skilfully the Chancellor had skinned it. He was perfectly happy with taxation by stealth. "It's not duplicitous," he maintained, "it means you don't make a virtue out of telling people that you've raised their taxes. If they don't notice, then all credit to you." It is the redistribution not so much of Robin Hood as the Artful Dodger.

Mr Brown may try another grab today. Like any successful pickpocket he will stage a diversion, possibly by announcing a new starting rate for income tax at 10p in the pound. But while we stare rapt at this tricksiness we will be gently relieved of our mortgage tax relief, future inheritances and other allowances.

Disappearing along with our earnings is any notion that the Treasury should treat us like adults. Families and firms should not be bribed through the tax system to act in what the Chancellor considers to be their best interest. What industrial expertise, after all, does Gordon Brown bring to bear when he rigs the tax system to cajole companies into spending a state-approved amount on research and development? I don't want a Budget for children. I want a Budget for grown-ups. One that allows voters and companies to keep as much of their money as possible and do with it what they, not the State, consider right. But instead of an adult approach to economics all we have is Gordon Brown proclaiming: "Suffer the little children." And we will.

michael.gove@the-times.co.uk



This harvest of greed

Bananas are a joke only when your entire society is not in peril

One of the irritations of being a subsistence farmer or fisherman is having your product sniggered at by rich, distant urbanites. They giggle about haddock, or fodder-beet, or pigs, or bananas, while to you and your children those hilarious items make the difference between a respectable life and misery. So stop the banana jokes. We have had the headlines about banana skins and banana splits, the arch stuff about aphrodisiacs and Eurocrats going bananas. It gets less funny by the minute. Try, rather, to see the old comedian's prop as a symbol of hope, self-respect, justice, life itself.

For that is what it is, if you are trying to live off five or ten acres of banana trees on an island in the Caribbean: a place where your ancestors were brought in chains and whose small territory now represents the only place in the world where you and your children have an unquestioned right to live. From that perspective, the current banana trade war is not a joke.

Nor, with respect to many commentators, is it an occasion for legalistic chop-logic over which protagonist — the EU or the US — is most in breach of World Trade Organisation rules. It looks as if they both are. The EU has been devious, and the US has adopted its all-too-familiar role of global bully. But at least the EU nations have been devious and dilatory because they are trying to behave ethically. The Americans are just in it for the money. Big companies such as Chiquita want to force a monopoly, and the Clinton Administration wants Chiquita to go on footing Democrat campaign bills. Both sides may be out of step legally, but at least the European nations have human justice on their minds.

Justice can sometimes be above law. When Lord Denning died last week, much was made of the nerve he showed in habitually saying just that. In obituaries we heard his voice again, denying bending the law but twinklingly admitting to "developing" it. In a legalistic, fearful and untrustful world, his is a difficult vision to maintain, but it is worth trying. In this banana dispute America is attempting to use international law to force a despicable moral injustice.

Consider the case. Every year, Europe imports 3.9 million tonnes of bananas. Two thirds come from plantations, mainly in South America, controlled by a few big American corporations. African, Caribbean and Pacific countries — which between them send the other third — are given preferential treatment over tariffs. Many of them are former European colonies; moreover, they operate small-scale farms, where the cost of unmechanised harvesting is almost three times that of a hi-tech Ecuadorean "dollar plantation".

The American companies, however, claim that they are "losing" up to $520 million a year by not being able to push their intensive product even further into the European market. It sounds a lot, but considering that even one of the companies — Chiquita — is a fourteen-billion-dollar outfit, it is evident that the difference they hope to make to their own profits is not a matter of life and death to them.

Libby Purves

Assisted by illegal and high-handed sanctions from the American Administration, they might get their way. President Clinton seems anxious to help them, and strangely unembarrassed by the fact that they pay so much money to his party (America lodged its latest complaint about the banana regime within 24 hours of the Democrat cause receiving a fresh half-million dollar cheque from Chiquita). If the big boys do win, EU supermarkets will allow themselves to be flooded by the fruit to which the all-powerful Man from Del Monte (or Chiquita, or Dole) has said yes. The Caribbean farmers in particular, although they have only 9 per cent of the European market, will simply be ruined; the fragile societies they hold up will either collapse into lawlessness and the drug trade, or be held even more to ransom by the almost equally ruthless operators of the tourist industry.

The EU ministers know this, which is why they have kept ducking the issue. It is callous to say smoothly, as one leader did, that "Rules, unlike bananas, may not be bent if global trade is to thrive". Phooey. Some rules have to be bent, or as Denning would say "developed", in the interests of a just and peaceful world. Europe is historically the parent of most of these countries. It cannot shake off its relationship with them.

The EU governments, not least our own, should unapologetically make it clear to America — which preens itself on being global policeman and guardian of righteousness — that we too have moral duties in the world, and take them seriously.

The American reply is that if Europe wants to help the Caribbean it should do it through aid. Rubbish. Aid is nowhere near as beneficial to a society and economy as respectable trade. Small banana plantations — of a kind multinationals call "inefficient" — create employment and self-respect and contribute immeasurably more to a small country than any amount of foreign aid with all the usual greasy strings attached. Another reply is that Caribbean islands should concentrate on the tourist trade. Why? Tourism in poor regions gets controlled largely by foreign companies, who siphon the profits overseas. All the locals get are low-paid jobs; fine for some, but for others there will always be more fulfilment in harvesting real food for real export than in picking up tourists' discarded swimsuits from chalet floors.

Even self-interest should warn America not to play this game. At the weekend Caricom, the regional trade group for the Caribbean, issued a retaliatory threat. Its 15 members are reconsidering their agreement with the US drugs enforcement agencies. These have hitherto been, rather reluctantly, allowed to chase suspected traffickers into the territorial waters of these islands. Now Caricom gives warning that this permission may be withdrawn. Considering how easy it already is for drug smugglers to lose their pursuers among the reefs and islets of the region, the threat is a serious one. But for the islanders it would be a bitter, tragic revenge to create safe havens for the world's most ruthless criminals. The last thing any Caribbean island needs is to import the violence and degradation of that trade to wreck its society and tourism alike.

Justice, fairness, mutual global responsibility should outweigh lumbering regulation. Chiquita and the rest do not depend desperately on that last little slice of the European market; the Caribbean producers do. If the big producers can sleep easy at night after fighting this ignoble cause by day, the same should not be true of responsible world leaders — least of all those who are in the habit of going to Prayer Breakfasts and talking glibly of sin.

I leave you with the words of the Hon Allen Alpian, Minister of Foreign Affairs for St Vincent and the Grenadines, a volcanic, mountainous chain of islands with negligible natural resources. Its economy is slowing after 20 years' independence. The threat of losing the EU protection is worse, says the local newspaper, than La Soufrière volcano.

Mr Alpian says: "The recent WTO ruling has left us dazed and helpless. The concept of every man being his brother's keeper has been shattered. Can we survive? Would our cries for help go unheeded? What about neighbours? Are they deaf or uncaring? I know it now: money and greed have been elevated to the status of a religion, and care and concern are now regarded as a vice. Our future is now on a life-support system. However, I am confident that our resourcefulness and faith will see us through."

Only the last sentence rings hollow, but politicians have to say the upbeat thing. Myself, I predict that no resourcefulness or faith will save this David if Goliath gets his way. Meanwhile, I read the labels on bananas with more than usual care. Corruption leaves a nasty taste.

comment@the-times.co.uk

'There is more to it than racism — the police have been deliberately kept in a state of infantilism by the Home Office'

Tessa Keswick

What is wrong with the police? Since the Lawrence tragedy almost daily revelations underline problems relating not only to racism but to the culture, competence and accountability of this important public service. Why are you more than twice as likely to have your car stolen in Britain than in America, and why are you much more than twice as likely to have your house burgled?

It is astonishing that so few of us expect the police to solve the crime, or hope to retrieve our precious possessions. The clear-up rate of indictable offences in Britain for each of our 127,000 policemen is ten cases a year — out of possibly more than 50 million crimes. With such a pathetic performance, would you not expect the police and the Home Secretary to be called to account?

The explanations for this are numerous but if you go for a briefing to a local police headquarters, say in Andover, Peckham, or Guildford, as I have done with a former Home Secretary, the police will tell you they know exactly who the offenders are. They know the housing estates, the families, the thugs and the yobs.

The police know a huge amount and they could know everything. But mention arrests and you will be given a variety of excuses: "We could pick them up, easy, if it was worth it, what with the paperwork and all, and the courts just letting the criminals off with a caution, and the shortage of staff."

As you drink tea and munch biscuits in Peckham headquarters with enormous policemen, you will be proudly shown, on video, pushers selling drugs in Peckham High Street — as they apparently do every day. Why aren't they arrested? "Oh, we can't do that, you know — regulations — we have to wait for the Drugs Squad." This unit will visit, on request, from the Met in about three months' time. You will also be shown the new, politically correct units manned by specialists 24 hours a day for battered and raped women, abused grannies and children and motoring offences.

Police morale plummeted in the early 1980s when the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill rightly hardened the evidence required for conviction and sought to protect the rights of suspects. But, over the years, a nervous Home Office, in the absence of reliable police management, has continued to pile paperwork on a hard-pressed service. Scores of performance indicators have ensured that a host of different duties, apart from solving crime, are required from the police.

In the 1990s the Conservatives attempted to loosen the umbilical cord linking the service to the Home Office by devolving power to the chief constables and making the solving of crime a priority. Targets were introduced and clear-up rates made explicit. But scores of daily "performance indicators" setting out centralised police duties required by the Home Office and the Police Inspectorate remained intact. These range from monitoring petty motoring offences to helping old ladies across the street and rescuing cats out of trees. A favourite requires the conduct of questionnaires with the public to establish police popularity levels. Solving crime still takes up less than 20 per cent of a policeman's daily routine.

Over the years, fundamental changes have been considered — including an independent Police Inspectorate ensuring greater accountability and, to inspire better management, the introduction of an officer class drawn from university-educated professionals (possibly ex-Army) to prevent the dreaded canteen culture rising through the ranks.

To combat rising crime, the separation of traffic duty and car crime to a less professional force was considered, together with a reduction in the number of "social duties" required. The introduction of performance-related pay was suggested. These useful initiatives, which should be revisited, were resisted by politicans, the Home Office or the police themselves.

The police do a difficult job but they display all the hallmarks of a badly led, closed, public sector organisation. The setting up the Violent Crimes Task Force addresses only part of the problem. There is more to it than racism — the police have been deliberately kept in a state of infantilism by the Home Office and have accepted this in exchange for flawed management structures and weak accountability.

In America, the public became so angry with rising crime that in the past 15 years it has dropped by half. We can do the same. The Home Secretary should grasp the problems of the management of the police force as a whole with honesty and realism — both sides would greatly benefit.

The author is Director of the Centre for Policy Studies

comment@the-times.co.uk

THE TIMES DIARY

High jinks

MONICA LEWINSKY is taking her seat at High Table. The Fellows of All Souls, Oxford, have asked her to dinner on Thursday, after signing copies of her little treatise locally. From the college, Oxford's most self-regardingly cerebral (it doesn't bother with students), she can gaze lovingly at University College, her ex's old playpen.

Fellows Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone and William Waldegrave find themselves strangely engaged. "I wish her a pleasant evening," stutters John Redwood, legs crossed. Sir Crispin Tickell sniffs: "One wonders what sort of a dinner guest someone like that would be, really." Ms Lewinsky was due last night, sparking a stampede by active Fellows. After the publicity tour dates were jiggled, dinner was switched to Thursday — leading to a strange cancellation of seats for last night.

VANESSA FELTZ struggles to live down the great genetically modified guest scandal. She inquired if Kate Adie would go on to discuss International Women's Day. Came the response: "Who would you like her to be?"

■ BIANCA, alias Patsy Palmer (below left), the important thespian, is set to play Eliza Doolittle in a remake of *My Fair Lady*, first played by Audrey Hepburn (right) in the cinematic treatment of *Pygmalion*. "I can really see myself



getting turned into this amazing woman," the 26-year-old EastEnder tells me. "It's a part I was born to play." Producers believe she can master *Wouldn't it be Luvverly*, but worry about that testing line: "The rain in Spain falls mainly on the plain."

SUPERWAIF Jodie Kidd discloses how her poor background saddled her and her siblings with the initial "J". "It was thought sensible that my brother Jack, sister Jemma and I have names with J as horse blankets and boxes are so expensive to have embroidered and repainted."

■ UGLY faces north of the border. Alex Salmond's enemies have set up an Internet site, featuring the grinning SNP chieftain: browsers are invited to "improve his image" by rearranging his face into grotesque forms. Willie Dunn, the Scottish Labourite behind the wheeze, says: "I don't think he will mind — it's politics." Salmond demurs: "Since new Labour is brain-dead, I suppose it is reduced to sticking pins in pictures of people." I trust the browser who signed off "Donald Dewar" is not related to the Scottish Secretary.

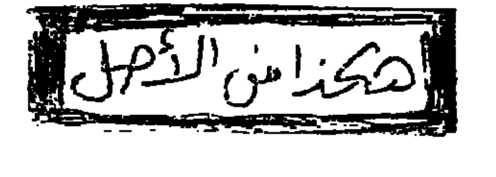


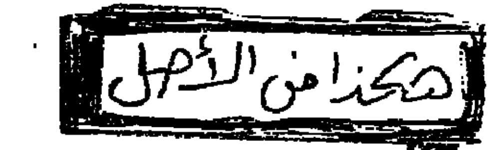
NEW YORK'S most voguish cattlemarket is coming to town. Studio 54, famed for its selective admissions policy (Andy Warhol and Mick Jagger are among the creatures who struggled to get past its notorious red rope), has won a licence to open in St Martin's Lane — 100 yards from the master meat packer, Peter Stringfellow.

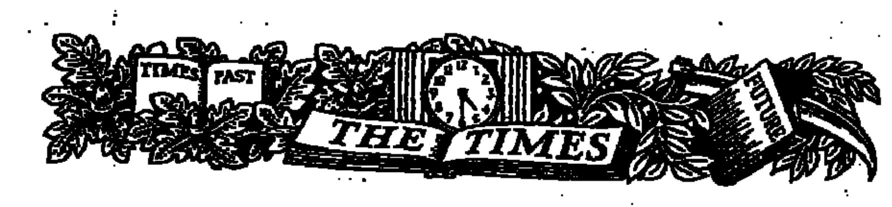
■ CHARLIE WHELAN has had second thoughts about publishing his memoirs. The chief body-burier to Gordon Brown, brought down over the Peter Mandelson loan scandal, was offered £500,000 to tell all in a book about his erstwhile boss. But he has now discovered discretion. "I didn't spend ten years hard labour creating a Government to knock it down," he growls.

PECULIAR that after Tony Blair publicly pledged to support Comic Relief and was given a free car Red Nose, his PMmobile is noseless. I am assured that he's stuck it on "one of the family's other cars". Most charitable, I'm sure.

JASPER GERARD







THE SECOND TEST

Can the eurozone become a flexible marketplace for jobs?

A single currency, Tony Blair told the House of Commons last month, will not make Europe prosperous, but EMU "plus fundamental reform in labour, capital and product markets and in our welfare systems can do so". Maybe. But prosperity of this kind would also spring from those reforms without British membership of EMU. The implication that EMU is a necessary ingredient of success awaits, to put it very modestly, a firm degree of proof.

The United States has witnessed the creation of 13.5 million jobs since 1992: to some this might seem to help the case for a single currency. But, equally, since Britain was forced out of the ERM in 1992 and floated sterling, it has created more jobs than the rest of the eurozone put together. Unemployment is 4.5 per cent in the US, 6.2 per cent in Britain and 11 per cent across euroland.

FIVE TESTS FOR EUROPE

The reasons why much of Europe continues to shed jobs, while America is creating a quarter of a million a month, are not far to seek. Employment in small and medium American enterprises is booming, thanks to a venture capital market which is ten times that of the EU's in terms of respective GDPs. Since Britain accounts for half the EU's venture capital investment, the real gap is wider still. The EU "social market", by contrast, continues to rely heavily on state intervention to create employment. Labour mobility is high in the US; in the EU, by contrast, only 1.7 per cent of those employed work outside their own country.

Is this culture changing? In EU councils, ministers acknowledge the need to liberalise labour markets and cut non-wage costs to price people into jobs; but, led by France and now Germany, most of the socialist majorities at the eurozone's core are heading in the opposite direction, intensifying labour market rigidities with mandatory cuts in working hours and overtime, job creation schemes that swell already oversized public sector payrolls, and state subsidies and tax breaks for private sector employers who take on the unemployed.

Such approaches have been considerably less effective than the welfare-to-work reforms deployed in smaller countries, for example, Denmark, The Netherlands and Spain. Ireland too has enjoyed labour market reforms but here the low-tax regime has been the decisive factor: with the advent of the euro, that is now under assault from Brussels, Bonn and Paris.

The expectation of most private economists that eurozone growth will slump to an average of 1.5 per cent this year is only partly linked to the loss of export markets in Asia and Russia and weakening domestic consumer demand. Equally troubling is the resurgence of *dirigiste* structural policies. The 1999 budget drawn up by "Red" Oskar Lafontaine, the Finance Minister in Gerhard Schröder's coalition, is squeezing the pips of German industry as hard as Denis Healey did the rich in Labour's tax-and-spend prime. The few steps the Kohl Government took to cut non-wage costs have effectively been suspended.

As a result, the Federation of German Industry now reports some 1,500 inquiries by crucial medium-sized companies - the Mittelstandbedrock of German manufacturing — on moving production out of the country completely.

EU state subsidies to industry continue to distort investment to the tune of more than £24 billion. France, along with Italy, is driving up its labour costs by imposing a 35-hour working week. Neither in Germany, nor France, nor Italy is unemployment expected to come down very significantly without far deeper structural reforms.

By making it easier to compare costs, both of labour and of government policies, across the eurozone, the euro helps to show how very divergent are its 11 economies. Supporters of a single currency hope that this will spur deregulation and other structural reforms; so far, it has produced a new drive for "harmonisation", for hobbling market forces in the name of eliminating "unfair" competition. For Britain to join EMU under these conditions would weaken its ability to resist pressure to co-ordinate taxes and labour costs and to sign up to restrictive labour practices. "Social Europe", the catch phrase of the continental Left, will be jobless Europe.

Until there is convincing evidence of the steep and sustainable fall in eurozone unemployment, with strong growth in private sector jobs, nothing could be less in the national interest than to tie Britain to the economics of the 1970s on which this country, 20 years ago, turned its back.

MR HAGUE'S KITCHEN

Realism and proportion on the Tory table

Two years after their defeat, many Tories remain in a state of denial. William Hague has never had any difficulty appreciating the magnitude of the change required if the Conservatives are to to be serious competitors at the next general election. Many of his parliamentary colleagues and much of the Conservative Party in the country have been less ready to acknowledge this reality.

The Conservative leader seems now to be in the mood to impose his instincts on the Shadow Cabinet. As *The Times* reported yesterday, Mr Hague has adopted a new strategy entitled "kitchen table Conservatism", aimed at shifting the party's policies and style towards the core domestic issues that most influence the electorate. His seven "campaigning criteria" sound almost too obvious to be worth saying: use accessible language; listen to voters; emphasise the future; concede mistakes and move on; be for things not only against them; keep a sense of proportion in attacking Labour and insist upon integrity.

But the two most important, the willingness to "concede and move on" and maintaining a sense of proportion, will also be the hardest. Only if enacted by the entire Tory leadership team, can they change the way Conservatism is put before voters in this year of many elections.

This is the direction in which Mr Hague would now like to take his party. He is right. The most pertinent criticism is that the shift should have been made 18 months ago. Until the Conservatives can accept that mistakes were made in the past they invite the public to compare the record of the discredited Major era with that of Tony Blair and new Labour. Mr Hague needs instead to provoke public examination of the difference between new Labour's rhetoric and its record. He then needs to persuade voters that, under his charge, the Tories have solutions to their problems.

That process is not helped by exaggerated opposition. Constant calls for ministers to resign over minor misdemeanours only serves to remind the public that Conservative politicians were not often inclined to engage in principled resignation either.

If Mr Hague is to implement "kitchen table Conservatism" he needs to surround himself with kitchen table Conservatives. This is not solely a matter of removing those most intimately associated with the last Government. Michael Howard's decision to return to the backbenches soon does, however, allow Mr Hague additional room for manoeuvre. Some of the new blood that Mr Hague brought into the Shadow Cabinet last summer has been uninspiring. The Tory leader has certain talented women MPs at his disposal. Their advancement should be his priority when the time comes to reshuffle his colleagues.

Mr Hague has his first opportunity to demonstrate a sense of proportion today when he responds to the Budget. It would be entirely legitimate for him to draw attention to Gordon Brown's "stealth taxes" and the long-term impact that they may have on the economy. It would not be reasonable to predict financial meltdown as a result of the Chancellor's measures. Such a forensic approach might offend those "ivory tower Tories" for whom only an all-out assault on Labour is acceptable. These are not, though, the voters on whom a Conservative recovery is dependent.

THE THIRD RIGHT OF WAY

A dead end response to the right to roam

The Government is wandering towards an unnecessary rural dispute. Yesterday the Environment Minister, Michael Meacher, promised to fulfil his party's election pledge to introduce a statutory right of access to roughly four million acres of open countryside. Mr Meacher may hope that the promise of local access forums, to discuss how the law might be implemented, will soothe rural opinion. This Third Way, though, risks pleasing no one.

The Country Landowners Association (CLA) agrees that access should be improved. Its proposal for a National Voluntary Access Framework made sense. Over the past seven years, landowners have opened up an area twice the size of Nottinghamshire and created more than 12,000 miles of footpaths. Ministers have decided to ignore this success, and have chosen to wield a legislative walking stick.

Rural opinion, still smouldering after the Government's handling of other countryside issues, is likely to be enflamed by such an initiative. Instead of ambling up the path of least resistance to a consensual solution, Mr Meacher has instead yomped towards confrontation. Where he has not aggravated opinion, he has left numerous questions unanswered. The Government has yet to map out precisely what land will be affected. "Further consideration" will be given about what to do if landowners or ramblers disagree about land being included or excluded. Crucially, the Government has decreed that there will be "no general right of compensation".

Lawyers not ramblers stand to gain most from Mr Meacher's proposal. The CLA believes that a statutory right of access, without appropriate compensation, will infringe the Protocol of the European Court of Human Rights. Some landowners, it claims, will tell ministers to take a hike to the courts to see this issue contested. The Government has created an aggrieved constituency which it intends to boss into submission. Consensus and co-operation, not the courts and confrontation, would have been the better way to proceed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Anti-euro feeling as strong as ever

From Sir David Mitchell

Sir, The Government has stated that "the economic benefits [of joining the euro] must be clear and unambiguous". The Prime Minister has gone further and provided tests. The first of these is the "durable convergence of the UK business cycle with that of the eurozone" (leading article, February 24). Heads have duly nodded at this apparent truism, but will a homogenised trade cycle give either the UK or the eurozone unambiguous benefit?

While the UK economy is buoyant, the eurozone benefits from raised exports and consequent jobs. When the non-convergent trade cycle moves on, we shall benefit from rising demand in the eurozone. To me, that seems a clear benefit from *non*-convergent trade cycles.

If we achieve the Prime Minister's first litmus test of durable convergence, a clear and unambiguous benefit will be lost. We shall all be buoyant together or all depressed together. Surely this scenario will be even worse, having lost the stabilising influence of compensating differences in the trade cycles *within* the EU.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MITCHELL
(Conservative MP, 1964-97),
Berry Horn Cottage,
Odiham, Hampshire RG29 1HS.
March 4.

From Mr M. J. C. Tweedie

Sir, Mr Tony Benn was right to ask the Prime Minister whether the Government would be making clear to every elector that "if Britain is a member of a single currency they will lose the right to elect or to remove on polling day those who make the economic decisions that affect our lives" (report, February 24).

British businessmen must ask themselves whether their interests are best represented by the views of the multinational-dominated CBI or the more questioning stance of the Institute of Directors and Business for Sterling.

Greater attention to the views of the two latter organisations would remove the CBI crutch on which Mr Blair appears to rely when he claims that his enthusiasm for the euro is matched by the majority of British businesses.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES TWEEDIE,
Lower Upton, Little Hereford,
Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 4BB.

From Mr James S. Little

Sir, I congratulate you on your editorial, "The first test", today. This is the first time that I have seen any public comment on the huge difference that exists between the social security costs of France, Germany and Italy and those of this country, and the implications of this difference upon future financial policy.

That this is a major issue of vast significance to the people of this country when the question of joining EMU is discussed there is no doubt, and more power to *The Times* for bringing it into the open.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES S. LITTLE,
Langdons, Swelling Hill, Ropley,
Alresford, Hampshire SO24 0DA.
March 3.

From Canon Edward Turner

Sir, In all the debates about the euro and the future of the EU, might I inject a theological/ethical note? In his first great book, *Moral Man and Immoral Society* (Charles Scribners Sons, 1932), the influential American thinker Reinhold Niebuhr explored the sharp distinction between the hopes and aspirations of the individual person as contrasted with the activities of groups, whether national, racial or economic (and I would add religious).

Recognising that the distinction cannot be absolute, Niebuhr noted that the relationship between the individual and the community brings into intense focus the major problems and tensions of our age. It is in the light of this that Niebuhr argued that the Christian understanding of human nature may see the purpose of democracy as a way of providing a means for the use, diffusion and control of power.

The writings of Niebuhr on politics and justice could well be an invaluable resource for every person seeking to exercise power and influence in the EU, as well as in our own developing constitutional changes in the UK. Certainly a more vigorous, transparent and participative democracy is urgently required.

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD TURNER,
1 King's Orchard,
The Precinct, Rochester ME1 1TG.
March 5.

From Mr Roger Franklin

Sir, Since it is now absolutely clear that Mr Blair intends to take Britain into the euro, it is time that the British people cast aside their dislike of the Tories and united around a common belief in the value of the nation state.

It would be a tragedy if it was to go down in history that Britain surrendered its independence, so hard won and fought for, because it could not forgive Tory sleaze.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER FRANKLIN,
Trinity College, Oxford OX1 3BH.
roger.franklin@trinity.oxford.ac.uk
March 5.

Flying bishops are 'force for unity'

From the Suffragan Bishop of Richborough

Sir, It is very kind of the Modern Churchpeople's Union to suggest (letter, March 4) that I and my fellow "flying bishops" should be "reincorporated into the normal diocesan system". There are great attractions about acquiring the back-up staff of a diocese, the experts in such a range of specialities whom most dioceses employ.

That, though, is not why we were consecrated. The Church of England, through the Archbishops, gave us a commission to ensure "extended pastoral care and sacramental ministry . . . be provided" for the parishes which asked for it. This was to enable the Church of England to hold together diverse views over women's ordination for as long as was needed to reach consensus.

As the Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission on Communion and Women in the Episcopate put it (1988): "The fact that a synod has reached a decision does not foreclose the matter." That was endorsed by last year's Lambeth Conference. It is not for pressure groups to try to invent a new Church of England in their own image, where you may believe whatever you like, provided only that you accept that the ordination of women is Revealed Truth.

Yours &c,
† EDWIN RICHBORO:
14 Hall Place Gardens,
St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 3SP.
March 4.

From the Archdeacon of York

Sir, The former Archbishop of York, John Habgood, worked tirelessly to ensure that the deep divisions caused by the ordination of women to the priesthood in 1992 did not destroy the unity of the Church of England. The Act of Synod was the result, enabling many to remain peaceably and often in friendship with those with whom they could never agree on this issue. But it was also an opportunity to show to a divided society and world that Christians could have fundamental disagreements and yet remain in an otherwise good and loving relationship.

Of course it is a fragile unity, for many bishops have deliberately and systematically flouted or ignored the promises of even-handedness to both sides that were part of the initial bargain. Even so, it is better than the hurt and division and rejections which would have ensued without the provisions of the Act of Synod.

It is desperately sad that Nicholas Henderson and Monica Furlong, the authors of your letter, are working equally tirelessly to destroy what has been achieved. One is forced to wonder who will be next on their list if opponents of the ordination of women are ejected from the Church. Perhaps it will be those who hold to traditional Christian doctrine with a firmness which must surely be anathema to the Modern Churchpeople's Union.

Yours,
GEORGE AUSTIN,
North Back House, Main Street,
Wheldrake, York YO19 6AG.
March 4.

From the Reverend John F. H. Shead

Sir, It is not just that many of us have "difficulty" with the ordination of women; before the vote in 1992 it was made plain that we could not accept that this action was right.

The Act of Synod has enabled us to remain and function as priests within the Church which nurtured us in the faith and enabled us to share in Christ's priestly ministry. It has also enabled us to continue to work within current diocesan structures, but having a bishop of our own integrity to whom we can turn when necessary.

To rescind the Act of Synod would, I am sure, do great damage. We have lost some fine priests, who have felt that they could no longer function in a Church which has turned its back on its Catholic and apostolic roots. Do we really want to lose many more?

I write as an ordinary parish priest who, whilst having a high regard for the ministry of women, cannot accept that it is right to ordain them as priests.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN F. H. SHEAD,
The Vicarage, Finchingfield,
Braintree, Essex CM7 4JR.
March 4.

Denning remembered

From Dr Michael J. Harte

Sir, For the record, Lord Denning did not urge "dockworkers' unions to sue the Government over docks privatisation" (Obituary, March 6).

During the House of Lords debates on the Dockyard Services Bill in 1986, opponents of the scheme to introduce commercial management into Devonport and Rosyth aroused his interest. He felt that the protection given to the workforce through European regulations — under which the unions had the right to go to court after any transfer and seek two weeks' pay as compensation for inadequate consultation — was insufficient. He therefore proposed that the unions should have the right to go to court to stop the transfer process if they felt there had not been full consultation.

As the Under-Secretary in the Ministry of Defence responsible for the transfer, it was both a privilege and a pleasure to work with Lord Denning and watch him, with the greatest consideration and courtesy, break government ministers over a barrel to secure an amendment to the Bill.

Subsequently, it was a matter of regret to him that the unions then abused the power he had secured for them by refusing to join in consultation with the MoD. Instead they went to the High Court to seek to stop the transfer process at the eleventh hour. There Michael Beloff, QC, who wrote warmly about Lord Denning in his article (March 6), had no difficulty in convincing Mr Justice Millett that the Secretary of State for Defence had no case to answer. The transfer therefore went ahead as planned.

I am, Sir, etc,
MICHAEL J. HARTE,
Greenman Farm,
Wadhurst, Sussex TN5 6LE.
harte@greenman.demon.co.uk
March 6.

From Mr Cecil Genese

Sir, You report (March 6) that, on his retirement, Lord Denning quoted from St Paul: "I wish I could say I fought a good fight, I finished the course, I kept the faith."

By how many men or women in public affairs today will this be truthfully fulfilled?

Yours faithfully,
CECIL GENESE,
2 Barton House,
Marine Drive, Barton-on-Sea,
Hampshire BH25 7EF.
March 6.

French policy in Africa

From the Ambassador of France

Sir, The act of barbarism perpetrated in Uganda against Western tourists — which the French Government has unequivocally condemned — is too heinous for it to be seized on in order to make harsh, unjust and inaccurate comments about our country's policy (report, "Hatred rooted in colonial struggle", March 4).

It is, in particular, totally wrong to assert that France ignored the UN embargo on arms supplies to Rwanda, when, as we have already said (letter, March 13, 1997), France stopped sending any military hardware to Rwanda before the UN ban was imposed.

I also want to reiterate that, ever since the onset of the Rwandan crisis, France has made every effort to promote a political solution.

I am surprised at your correspondent's remarks regarding the relations between Britain and France in Africa. France is in no way suffering from a "Fashoda syndrome". The rivalry which you allege exists between our two nations belongs to the 19th century.

The best proof of this lies in the joint visit which, this week, our two countries' Foreign Ministers will be paying to Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire where, in line with the decision of last December's Anglo-French summit in Saint-Malo, they will be chairing the first joint meeting of UK and French Ambassadors in Africa.

On the eve of the 21st century, we both have but one driving ambition: to contribute to the stability of the African continent as a whole.

Yours etc,
DANIEL BERNARD,
French Embassy,
58 Knightsbridge, SW1X 7JT.
March 8.

Third World debt

From Mr Peter Ball

Sir, Recently I have assisted in the presentation of several seminars and workshops addressed to the investigating authorities, lawyers and bankers of Kenya and Uganda on the subject of banking frauds investigation management.

On occasion, the subject of the servicing of international debts has arisen; I am finding it increasingly difficult to offer, let alone defend, the view that such debts should be serviced and eventually repaid. My hosts are far too polite to cause me embarrassment, and discussion usually peters out inconclusively.

I have searched in vain for an understandable and moral defence for the current Western capitalist view. Just why is it right and proper that such debts should be repaid; especially by a country where a US$10 tip, offered to a taxi driver who had been at my beck and call for over a week, was refused on the ground that this was far too generous, and represented almost a week's earnings from his very ramshackle cab?

Yours faithfully,
PETER D. BALL,
127 Winchester Road,
Whitchurch, Hampshire RG28 7RB.
March 8.

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Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Council cuts close precious museums

From the Chairman of National Heritage

Sir, The news that Cheltenham Borough Council has decided to close two local museums, the Gustav Holst Birthplace Museum and the Costume Museum at the Pittville Pump Room, will freeze the marrow of every museum curator dependent on local authority funding.

Holst was born in 1874 at 4 Clarence Road, one of the town's smaller Regency-style houses (it was built in 1832), and the house remained in private hands until 1974, when it was bought by the Holst Birthplace Trust, with the help of the borough council, and turned into a museum which contains many items associated with this great English composer, including his grand piano, and a vividly presented account of his life and work.

The Costume Museum is quite different, but also a model small enterprise of its kind. It was opened in 1983 to display some of the fine collection of costumes, dating mainly from the 18th century, and hitherto stored in the town's main Art Gallery and Museum, complemented by the Hull Grundy jewellery collection. It is housed on the upper floors of the splendid Grade I listed Pittville Pump Room.

The Holst Museum is to be kept "as an educational resource", meaning apparently that it will be opened occasionally for school parties by prior appointment. The Costume Museum is to be dismantled by May of this year, and the rooms above the Pump Room will be hired out for functions.

The problem, of course, is money. The Liberal Democrat majority on the council was faced with a budget deficit and has put the squeeze on the leisure department, an amorphous conglomerate of responsibilities that includes hanging baskets, playbuses, and Christmas lights as well as what we might have hoped were more permanent structures — such as museums and galleries that bring in visitors as well as providing an educational and cultural service to the inhabitants of Cheltenham.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES BISHOP,
Chairman, National Heritage,
9a North Street, SW4 0NH.
March 5.

Origins of the kilt

From Mr Iain Naylor

Sir, I would disagree with Mr Aitken Fyall (letter, March 3) on the origins of the kilt. Whilst he mentions Hugh Trevor-Roper's point that its creation is attributable to an English Quaker from Furness, circa 1730, a glance at the Arms of Skene of Skene of 1672, reveals that the left-hand supporter wore trews and the right-hand a kilt.

Let us promote the use of the kilt for the new millennium with the Scottish parliament in Edinburgh giving an inspired lead.

Yours faithfully,
IAIN NAYLOR,
11 Learmonth Terrace,
Edinburgh EH4 1PG.
March 3.

From Dr Bruce L. Lees

Sir, I have always thought it somewhat ironic that the kilt should now be seen as the national dress of Scotland when its origins seemed to lie in the Highlands which were hated and feared by the rest of Scotland until the 18th century.

However, that view may be quite wrong. I have a friend who is the epitome of a West Highlander; he lives and works where his family have always lived and worked. Recently we were looking at photographs of his daughter's wedding in the West Highlands. Amongst the groom (the English-born son of Lowland Scottish parents), the best man, and other male guests, all wearing kilts, he stood out by being dressed in a dark grey suit.

When I asked him why this was he replied, with some scorn, that kilts were "skirts for Englishmen!"

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE LEES,
Hayfield, Bournefields,
Twyford, Winchester,
Hampshire SO21 1NY.
March 3.

All in the genes

From Mr Colin Stamp

Sir, My wife recently purchased a tube of toothpaste which has a "use by" date of 11.1.2030.

Does the manufacturer know something about genetic engineering which is being kept from us?

Yours sincerely,
COLIN STAMP,
3 Shenstone Close,
Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 3PS.
March 7.

From Mr David Winters

Sir, "Du Pont's Monsanto link to dwarf rivals" (headline, March 4).

Surely genetic modification has gone too far.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WINTERS,
8 rue des Romains,
L-5465 Waldbredimus, Luxembourg.
March 4.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 8: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon attended the Commonwealth Day Observance Service in Westminster Abbey and were received by the Dean of Westminster (the Very Reverend Dr Wesley Carr) and the Chairman, Joint Commonwealth Societies' Council (Sir Peter Marshall).

The Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP (Chancellor of the Exchequer) had an audience of The Queen this evening.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended a Reception to mark Commonwealth Day and the 50th Anniversary of the Commonwealth, given by the Commonwealth Secretary-General (His Excellency Chief Emeka Anyaoku) at Marlborough House, London.

The Lord St John of Bletso, Extra Lord in Waiting, called upon The King of Swaziland and Her Royal Highess Inkhosikati at the Dorchester Hotel, London, this morning and, on behalf of The Queen, welcomed His Majesty and Her Royal Highness on their Arrival in this Country.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 8: The Prince of Wales this evening departed from Heathrow Airport for an official visit to Argentina, Uruguay and the Falkland Islands. The following were present and took leave of His Royal Highness: The Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Argentine Republic, Señor Pablo Tettamanti, and Dr Fernando Marr-Merello of the Embassy of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay.

Mr Nicholas Archer, Miss Sandy Henney, Surgeon Commodore Ian Jenkins RN and Lieutenant Commander John Lavery RN are in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 8: The Duke of York this evening attended the Welcoming Dinner for delegates to the "Nato at Fifty" Conference at Lancaster House, London SW1.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 8: The Princess Royal this morning arrived in Tokyo and was received by Her Majesty's Ambassador to Japan (His Excellency Sir David Wright).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon was received by Their Imperial Majesties The Emperor and Empress of Japan at The Imperial Palace.

The Princess Royal this evening attended a Reception given by Her Majesty's Ambassador to Japan to Commemorate Commonwealth Day.

Her Royal Highness was later entertained to dinner by Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Tomohito of Mikasa at their Residence.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 8: The Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior, The Order of St John, and The Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon received His Majesty King Mswati III, The King of Swaziland, and Her Royal Highess Inkhosikati and invested His Majesty as a Knight of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem.

Royal engagements

The Queen will hold an investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as president, will preside at a meeting of the Royal Mint Advisory Committee at Buckingham Palace at 11.00; and as patron, will attend the London Federation of Clubs for Young People luncheon at Tallow Chandlers' Hall, Dowgate Hill, at 12.40.

The Duke of Kent, as president, Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies, will address the Nato 50th anniversary conference at the Banqueting House, Whitehall, at 9.15am and will attend the conference dinner at Lancaster House at 8.30.

Appointment

Judge Martin Stephens, QC, to be a Judge of the Central Criminal Court from April 12.

School news

The Red Maids' School, Bristol
The Governors of The Red Maids' School are pleased to announce the following awards for September 1999:

11+
Major Scholarship: Francesca Purvis, The Red Maids' Junior School
Scholarships: Zara Bhakri, The Red Maids' Junior School; Rosalind Roberts, Frenchay C of E Primary School.
Bursaries: Emma Carpenter, Colston's Collegiate Prep School; Elisabeth Lucas, The Red Maids' Junior School
Major Music Scholarship: Emma McCarthy, Alexander Hosea School
Music Scholarship: Natasha Lemon, Elmlea School
Music Scholarship: Sophie Reece-Trapp, Lancaster House School.
16+
Whitson Bursaries (closed awards): Camilla Bhakri, Iona Hay, Rachel Peasley

Reception

The Lord Chief Justice was the guest of honour at a reception of the Parliamentary and Legal Committee of the Guild of Editors held last night at Bloomsbury House.

Nature notes

THE first woodlarks are back over the heaths and commons where they will nest, and their song pours down from the sky. It is a more melodious song than the skylark's, with a recurrent nightingale-like phrase, and the lark sweeps in large circles over its territory as it sings. Woodlarks have increased in numbers in the past ten years: they are commonest in Surrey and Hampshire, and in East Anglia, and are very tame birds on the ground. Large flocks of curlews are moving north along the coasts on their way back to the moors: they utter their wild, trilling song as they go. In gardens, goldfinches are singing again: their spring song is a more elaborate form of their everyday musical twitter.

More early flowers are opening: alongside field paths there are Buxbaum's speedwells with their hairy stems and fragile, pale blue flowers, while in ditches and by woodsides there are hooded purple blossoms on the sweet-smelling ground ivy. Snowdrops are in full flower, with sheets of them like snow on some wooded hillsides. Leaf-buds are breaking on crab-apple trees and elder bushes, and dull red flower clusters are appearing along the elm twigs.

D.J.M.

An earlier Nature notes was published in error yesterday.

Luncheons

Corporation of London
To mark the visit to the City of London of the King of Swaziland and Her Royal Highness Inkhosikati, the Corporation of London were the hosts at a luncheon held yesterday at the Mansion House. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress received the guests. Among others present were:

Prince Maguga, Princess Lomhlangano, Chief Mpini, Councillor T V Mtheibwa, Mr A H Shabangu (Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade) the High Commissioner for Swaziland and Mrs Mngomezulu, Senator Lutfo Dlamini (Minister of Enterprise and Employment), Dr Sishayl S Nxumalo (Chairman of the Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority), Mr Andrias Faludze (Chief Officer), Mr A T Dlamini, (Managing Director, Tibiyo Taka Ngwane), Captain Privon Magwaza, (Aide-de-Camp to the King), HM High Commissioner to Swaziland, the Ambassador of Lebanon, the Ambassador of Angola, the Acting High Commissioner for Namibia, Earl Cairns, the Hon Peter Brooke, CH, MP, the Vice Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, Mr Alderman and Sheriff Gavyn Arthur and Miss Carole Blackshaw, representatives of the High Commission of Swaziland, individual guests and representatives of organisations having commercial and cultural connections with Swaziland, representatives of the City Lands and Bridge House Estates Committee and Officers of the Corporation of London.

Rotary Club of London
Colonel Patrick Vincent was the speaker at a luncheon of the Rotary Club of London held yesterday at the Portman Hotel.

Lecture

Goldsmiths College, University of London
Professor Brian Morris, Professor of Anthropology, will deliver the inaugural lecture "Being human does not make you a person" at Goldsmiths College tonight. Admission is free. Telephone 0171 919 7957 for further information. Goldsmiths College, University of London, New Cross, London, SE14 6NW.

Dinners

Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme
The Speaker, President of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme, presided at a dinner held last night in Speaker's House. Mr George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, Sir George Young, MP, and Sir Neil Thorne, chairman, also spoke. Among others present were:

Lord Cocks of Hartcliffe, Lord Waddington, QC, Sir John Wheeler, the Minister of State for the Armed Forces, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence, the Permanent Under-Secretary for Defence, the Chief of Defence Procurement, the First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff, the Chief of the Air Staff, the Chief of the General Staff, the Commandant General Royal Marines, the Chief Executive of Vickers, the Chairman of Rolls Royce, the Chief Executive of British Aerospace, Sir Robert Balchin, Sir Patrick Hine and Members of Parliament.

Association of Consulting Engineers
The Hon Francis Maude, MP, was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the Association of Consulting Engineers held last night at the London Hilton on Park Lane. Mr Tim Foley, chairman, presided and Mrs Frances Edmonds also spoke. During the dinner Mr Garry Sanderson was named Young Consulting Engineer of the Year.

Inter-Parliamentary Union
Mr David Marshall, Chairman of the British group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, was the host at a dinner held last night at 1 Parliament Street in honour of a Parliamentary Delegation from Latvia, led by Mr Janis Straume, Speaker of the Saeimas of Latvia.

Athenaeum
Mr John Bly was the speaker at a talk-dinner held at the Athenaeum last night. Mr Michael Hockney was in the chair.

The Maccabaeans
Mr Ivor Spencer was the guest speaker at the annual house dinner of The Maccabaeans held last night at the RAF Club. Sir John Balcombe, president, was in the chair.



Miranda Lind, a member of the Rambert Dance Company, dressed to face the Ukrainian weather, tucks into a snack after rehearsing at the Kiev Theatre. The 70-year-old company, based in London, is on its first visit to Ukraine

Commonwealth Day Observance Service

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh attended the Commonwealth Day Observance Service held yesterday in Westminster Abbey. The King and Queen of Swaziland were present. The Dean of Westminster officiated.

Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, read the Queen's 1999 Commonwealth Day Message. Dr Salah el-Din M. Kenawy, Deputy Director-General of the Islamic Cultural Centre, read from the Qur'an. Rabbi Dr Albert Friedlander read from Mishnah Sanhedrin.

Mr Inderjit Singh, representing the Network of Sikh Organisations, UK, read from the Guru Granth Sahib. Mr Barnabas Leith, Secretary-General of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the UK, read from the Hidden Words of Bahá'u'lláh.

Dr Pandith M. Vajiragnana, Head of the London Buddhist Vihara, read from the Sutta-Nipata words from The Discourse on Loving-Kindness and the Rev Swami Shivarupananda of the Ramnakrishna Vedanta Centre read from the Universal Prayers.

Canon Vincent Berry, representing the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, read the lesson.

The Rev Dr Finlay A.J. Macdonald, representing the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, introduced the meditation.

The Rev Dr Kathleen Richardson, Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council, said prayers.

The BT Melodians Steel Orchestra, the London Community Gospel Choir, the Boys of Westminster Abbey Choir, the percussion quartet Backbeat, Gauri Tripathi and the Kathak Dancers, David Coulter, didjeridu, accompanied by Dominique De Cicco, guitar, and the instrumentalist group, Praying for the Rain, also took part.

The Commonwealth Mace was carried by Mr Mwambu Wanendeya.

The Prime Minister attended. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs was represented by Mr Tony Lloyd, MP. The Leader of HM Opposition and Mrs Hague, Ms Joyce Quinn, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and Mr Michael Howard, QC, MP, Opposition Spokesman for Foreign Affairs, were present.

The Lord Mayor of Westminster and the Lord Mayor of London attended. Among others present were:

High Commissioners and Agents General and their spouses, Mrs Anyaoku, the Permanent Under-Secretary of State and Head of the Diplomatic Service, the Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps and the Hon Lady Weatherall, the Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General (Development Co-operation) and Mrs Hare, the Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General (Political) and Mrs Srinivasan, the Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth (Economic and Social Affairs), the Lord Chamberlain and Lady Camoys, the Chairman of the Joint Commonwealth Societies' Council and Lady Marshall, the Chairman of the Royal Commonwealth Society and Lady McWilliam, the Chair of the Commission for Racial Equality, the Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira and Great Britain, Prebendary Austen Williams, Rabbi Dr Albert Friedlander (Westminster Synagogue), Commissioner John and Commissioner Gisele Gowens (Salvation Army) and the Precentor, the Chaplain and Sacrist, Canons, the High Steward, the High Bailiff and Searcher of the Sanctuary, the Queen's Almsmen and the Pastoral Assistant of Westminster Abbey.

Marriage

Mr M. Medlicott and Miss S. Whittall
The marriage took place on Saturday, March 6, 1999, at the Chapel of St Peter and St Paul, Kingsclere, between Michael Medlicott and Susan Whittall.

Birthdays today

Air Marshal Sir Roger Austin, 59; Mr Bill Beaumont, sports broadcaster and writer, 47; Dr M.G. Brock, former Warden, St George's House, Windsor Castle, 79; M André Courreges, fashion designer, 76; Mr Herbert Coutts, Head of Heritage and Arts, City of Edinburgh Council, 55; the Hon Sir Roualeyn Cumming-Bruce, former Lord Justice of Appeal, and his twin brother Lord Thurlow, 87; Mr Bobby Fischer, chess player, 56; Major-General J.P. Groom, former director-general, Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, 70; Mr Neil Hamilton, 50; Professor Sir Donald Harrison, laryngologist and otologist, 74; Mr Martin Johnson, British Isles rugby union captain, 29; Dr T.L. Johnston, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Heriot-Watt University, 72; Sir Norman Lindop, former Principal, British School of Osteopathy, 78; Mr R.G. Martin, company chairman, 78; Mr David Matthews, composer, 56; Sir Ronald Melville, former civil servant, 87; Sir Nicholas Monck, former civil servant, 64; Professor K.E. Robinson, former Vice-Chancellor, Hong Kong University, 85; Mr Howard Shelley, concert pianist and conductor, 49; the Right Rev James Simpson, former Moderator, General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 65; Professor Sir David Weatherall, FRS, haematologist, 66.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.G.B. Langlands Pearse and Miss E.N. Airikkala
The engagement is announced between Alexander, son of Commander and Mrs Ian Langlands Pearse, of Cowfold, West Sussex, and Nataliina, daughter of Mr Pentti Airikkala, of Bray, and Mrs Kirsti Airikkala, of Hurley.

Mr J.B. Machin and Mlle C. Lafont
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, elder son of Professor and Mrs Ian Machin, of Newport-on-Tay, Fife, and Charlotte, younger daughter of M and Mme Xavier Lafont, of Neuilly-sur-Seine, Paris.

Mr R.P.P. Machin and Miss G.K. Curtis
The engagement is announced between Raoul, younger son of Professor and Mrs Ian Machin, of Newport-on-Tay, Fife, and Gyllian Kathryn, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas Curtis, of Resolis, Ross and Cromarty.

Mr D.W. Midgley and Miss E.J. Taylor
The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr and Mrs Keith Midgley, of Kildwick, West Yorkshire, and Jane, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Taylor, of Rudgwick, West Sussex.

The Hon C.M.M. Mitchell-Thomson and Miss V.A. Glasmacher
The engagement is announced between Callum, only son of Lord Selsdon and Patricia Lady Selsdon, of London, and Vanessa, daughter of Herr Stefan Glasmacher and Frau Uwe Lembke, of Düsseldorf, Germany.

Mr W.C. Stocker and Miss R.A. MacGregor-Oakford
The engagement is announced between William, younger son of Colonel and Mrs Simon Stocker, of Bishopstrow, Wiltshire, and Rachel, younger daughter of Brigadier Robert MacGregor-Oakford, of Fleet, Hampshire, and Mrs Dunham Reilly, of San Diego, California.

Mr M.R. Vince and Miss K.A. Phillips
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Vince, of Ruislip, Middlesex, and Karen, daughter of Mr and Mrs Tony Phillips, of Northwood, Middlesex.

Dr M.J. Voaden and Miss R.J. Gradon
The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Mr and Mrs Trevor Voaden, of St Austell, Cornwall, and Rachel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Martin Gradon, of Hare Hatch, Berkshire.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Amerigo Vespucci, explorer, Florence, 1451; Honore Mirabeau, statesman, Bignon, France, 1749; Franz Joseph Gall, anatomist and founder of phrenology, Tiefenbrunn, Austria, 1758; William Cobbett, essayist and politician, Farnham, Surrey, 1763; Taras Shevchenko, poet, Ukraine, 1814; Dame Lilian Braithwaite, actress, Ramsgate, 1873; Ernest Bevin, Foreign Secretary 1945-51, Winsford, Somerset, 1881; Vyacheslav Molotov, statesman, Kukaida, Vyatka, 1890; Victoria Sackville-West, novelist and biographer, Knole Castle, Kent, 1892; David Smith, sculptor, Decatur, Indiana, 1906; Samuel Barber, composer, West Chester, Pennsylvania, 1910; Yuri Gagarin, first astronaut to orbit the Earth 1961, Smolensk, 1934.

DEATHS: David Rizzio, favourite of Mary Queen of Scots, murdered, Edinburgh, 1566; Jules Mazarin, cardinal and statesman, Vincennes, France, 1661; Samuel Jebb, physician, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, 1772; Anna Barbauld, poet, Stoke Newington, London, 1825; Arnold Toynbee, social philosopher, London, 1883; William I, German Emperor 1871-88, Berlin, 1888; Hippolyte Adolphe Taine, philosopher and historian, Paris, 1893; Frank Wedekind, dramatist, Munich, 1918.

Napoleon Bonaparte married Josephine de Beauharnais, 1796.

The French Foreign Legion, with its headquarters in Algeria, was founded, 1831.

Accession of Frederick III, German Emperor, 1888.

British police deported Archbishop Makarios from Cyprus to the Seychelles for fostering terrorism, 1956.

Meeting

Royal Over-Seas League
Professor Ged Martin, Professor of Canadian Studies at Edinburgh University, was the speaker at a meeting of the Discussion Group of the Royal Over-Seas League held last night at Over-Seas House, St James's. Mr Graham Lockwood, chairman of the group, presided.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Edward Butt, Curate, Shirley (Winchester): to be Vicar, Stourbridge St Michael Norton (Worcester).

The Rev Bryan Carew, Rector, Great and Little Henny w. Middleton, and Wickham St Paul w. Twinstead (Chelmsford): to be also Priest-in-Charge, Alphamstone and Lamarsh (same diocese).

The Rev Andrew Clarke, Priest-in-Charge, Bingley Holy Trinity (Bradford): has been appointed Vicar, same benefice.

The Rev Glenn Coggins, Curate, Cley Hill Warminster (Salisbury): to be Rector, Doddington w Benwick and Wimblington (Ely).

The Rev Philip Conway, Curate, High Harrogate Christ Church (Ripon): to be Priest-in-Charge, Menheniot, St Lalluwy and St Antoninus (Truro).

The Rev John Corbyn, Rector, Cressing All Saints (Chelmsford): has been appointed Priest-in-Charge, Stisted w Bradwell-juxta-Coggeshall and Pattiswick (same diocese).

The Rev Martyn Crompton, Vicar, Golcar (Wakefield): to be also Rural Dean of Huddersfield (same diocese).

The Rev Rowland Crook, Vicar, Northwich St Luke and Holy Trinity (Chester): to be Priest-in-Charge, Helsby and Dunham-on-the-Hill (same diocese).

The Rev Peter Dakin, Priest-in-Charge, Great and Little Maplestead w. Gestingthorpe (Chelmsford): to be also Priest-in-Charge, Pebmarsh (same diocese).

The Rev David Dunning, Head of Theology, Sherborne School (Salisbury): to be also NSM, Sherborne (samediocese).

The Rev Alan Fiddyment, NSM, Spalding St Mary and St Nicholas (Lincoln): to be Rector, Barkston and The Hough Group (same diocese).

The Rev Michael Forrer, NSM, London All Hallows by the Tower (London): has been appointed Chaplain, HMP Dorchester (Salisbury).

The Rev Malcolm Foy, Director of Education (Bradford): has been appointed Vicar, Otley (same diocese).

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE; 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Behold, God is mine helper: the Lord is with them that uphold my soul. Psalm 54.4 (AV).

BIRTHS

BROWN - On 11th February, at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, to Sharon (née Goodchild) and Matthew twin sons, Daniel John and Rory Joseph, brothers for Jamie.

CHAMBERLAIN - On Saturday March 6th to Tessa and Jonathan, a daughter, Cara Phebe Lucilla.

CRAVEN - On February 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Josephine and Anthony, a daughter, Scarlett Stephanie.

DEMERY/MORLEY - To Gronia and Nicholas on 21st February, a son, Stephen Lionel. Deo Gratias.

FOLKES - On March 4th at The Portland Hospital, to Ferrelyn (née Wilson-Apperson) and Patrick, a son, Cairo, a brother for Joshua.

GARRICK - On March 3rd at The Portland Hospital, to Martha and Timothy, a son, Jaylan, a brother for Erica Tarrant.

GREEN - On March 3rd at The Portland Hospital, to Valerie and Mark, a beautiful daughter, Emily, a sister for Roy.

HARDING - On March 3rd at The Portland Hospital, to Lucy and Phil, a daughter, Bryony Elizabeth.

HARTLEY - On March 2nd 1999 in Kuala Lumpur, to Anne Buckingham and Christopher, a daughter, Jemima Bea, a sister for Samantha.

HEAP - On 24th February, to Lynne and Jeremy, a son, Thomas Wilfrid, a brother to Jessica.

HOWARD-VYSE - On March 5th, to Clare and Charles, a son, Alexander Richard, a brother for Marcus.

HUDSON - To John and Lizzey (née Hallett) on 1st March 1999 in London, a beautiful daughter, Lucy Olivia.

KENNER - To Deirdre and Henry on 4th March, a little sister Madeleine Olivia for Danielle and Lucy.

BIRTHS

LAUDER-FROST - On March 7th 1999 in Edinburgh, to Sarah-Jane (née Gladstone) and Gregory, a daughter, Clarissa Ina.

MACE - On March 1st at The Portland Hospital, to Sophia and Simon, a daughter, Matilda. She is lovely!

MACKAY - On March 4th at The Portland Hospital, to Tanya (née Kazeminy) and Stuart, a son, Finn Jamie. Off to a roaring start.

MORAY PARKER - On 22nd February, to Daniel and Anna, a son, Noah James.

PATTERSON - On March 5th at The Portland Hospital, to Alison and Stuart, a son, David, a brother for Lauren and Georgia.

RICKENBACH - Lydia Grace Christina, to Louise and Mark on 2nd February. Sister to Adam and Amelia.

RUSH - Isobelle Grace de Vesci, born February 26th 1999 to Alison and Toby.

WILLIAMSON - On Wednesday February 24th at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne, to Rebecca (Watts) and Magnus, a daughter, Harriet Esther.

ZENEZINI - On March 3rd at The Portland Hospital, to Laurence (née Deprez) and Stefano, a beautiful daughter, Louise Audrey.

DEATHS

BARRACLOUGH - Elizabeth on 5th March peacefully in her 91st year. Much loved and loving sister of Sir John and aunt and great-aunt of Moyra, Alexander and Arabella. To be affectionately remembered by her family and many friends of three generations. Private cremation but Thanksgiving Service at 3.00pm on Friday 19th March at The Church of Our Lady, Warnford, nr Petersfield, Hampshire. Flowers or, if wished, donations to the Save the Children Fund c/o Thomas Pink and Sons, Bishops Waltham, Hants. Tel 01489 892640.

DEATHS

BISHOP - Marjorie Hilda (née Crocker) died suddenly at home on Tuesday 2nd March 1999 aged 93. Beloved wife of the late Reverend Canon Kenneth Bishop and dearly loved mother of Margaret and John. Funeral 9th March 2.30 pm at Keswick St John, Cumbria. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Church Mission Society.

BROADBENT - Doris (Dot) peacefully at the Royal Hampshire Hospital, Winchester on 6th March in her 83rd year. Much loved wife of Urquhart, mother, granny, and friend of all who knew her. Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's, Broughton, at 2pm on Friday 12th March, preceded by private cremation. Family flowers only.

BURCH - Jack (Basil) Brewster peacefully at home in Beaconsfield on 4th March in his 87th year. Beloved husband of Patricia (1989) and sadly missed by his children Katharine, David, John and Mary Claire and all his 15 grandchildren. A private service for family and friends at St Michael and All Angels, Beaconsfield on Friday 12th March at 3.30 pm. Family flowers only please. Enquiries to 0181-965-0344.

DAVIES - John Thomas, died peacefully at home in Locks Heath on 4th March aged 80, after a short struggle against cancer. Funeral and flowers family only. Donations: Macmillan Cancer Relief.

DUFFY - Peter Joseph on 5th March after an illness courageously borne. Much loved and missed by his family. Funeral to be held at 12 noon on Saturday 13th March at Trinity United Reformed Church, Mansel Road, Wimbledon. Enquiries to F.W. Paine (0181) 946-1974.

GRAHAM - Shirley Germaine died 3rd March bravely and peacefully, aged 70. Shirley, affectionately know as "love", darling wife of Hector, very loving mother of Robert and James and their wives Diana and Wendy, grandmother of Georgia, and sister of Jennifer. Private cremation. Thanksgiving Service at 12 noon on Friday, 12th March at Holy Trinity, Old Bosham. Family flowers only please. If you wish, a donation to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund would be much appreciated.

HAMER - On 3rd March peacefully at the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, Leila Norton of Belper, aged 90 years. Wife of the late Rev. Canon Basil Hamer M.A. LL.B. Details of the funeral may be obtained from Thomas Ryde and Son of Belper. Tel: 01773 822059.

HENSHAW - Kenneth Ralph, aged 80, on 4th March after a short illness. Dearly loved husband of Pat, father of Nicky and grandfather of Hetty, George and William. Private cremation followed by Service of Thanksgiving on Tuesday 16th March at 2.00pm at St Clements Church, Sandwich. Family flowers only.

HOFFMAN - Marie-Luise peacefully on Friday 5th March 1999, aged 77, greatly loved mother of Tom, Ingrid, Nicholas, Christopher and Philip, and a devoted grandmother. Funeral service at the Church of St Mary and St Michael, Trumpington, Cambridge at 2.00pm on Friday 12th March. Donations if desired to Cambridge Multiple Sclerosis Society c/o A.F. Townsend, 18 High Street, Great Shelford CB2 5EH.

HOULTON - I.V., L.D.S., R.C.S., (Eng). Passed away peacefully in Salisbury on 7th March, 1999. Formerly of Ealing and the Isle of Wight. He will be sadly missed by his family. Funeral service at St Martins Church, Salisbury on Thursday 11th March, 1999 at 9.30am. All enquiries c/o I.N. Newman Ltd., Funeral Directors, Salisbury. 01722 413136.

HUGHES - (née Cowie), Diana (Danny). At home, in Ilminster, on 7th March. Beloved mother of Angela, Miranda and Victoria, and dear grandmother. Much missed by John, Averil and family. All welcome to celebrate her life at Taunton Crematorium 4.00pm Wednesday 10th March, and afterwards at Shrubbery Hotel, Ilminster. No flowers. Donations to Marie Curie Cancer Care. Funeral Director, R.J. Dean 01460 52435.

HUSAIN - John Arif died peacefully on 2nd March after a bravely fought illness. Loved and missed by Kay, daughters Anna and Liz, adored grandson Sam, family and friends. Cremation to take place at 12 noon on Friday March 12th at City of London Cemetery and Crematorium, Aldersbrook Road, E11. Details of subsequent venue may be obtained from Tadman Funeral Directors 0171 790 4097. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St Botolph's Project, Aldgate East, c/o Tadman, 116 Jubilee Street, London E1.

LAMONT-JONES - Celia O.B.E. peacefully at Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton on 3rd March 1999 aged 83 years. Widow of Cecil. Much loved Aunt of Colin, William and John Wood. Funeral Service to be held on 11th March at 11 O'clock at All Saints Church, Hove, Sussex followed by committal at 2 o'clock at All Saints Church, Sanderstead, S Croydon. The family will welcome Celia's many friends at either Hove or Sanderstead. Enquiries to Funeral Directors, Atree & Kent, 108 Church Road, Hove, Sussex, tel 01273 831985.

LEE - Dr Sidney - after a long and painful illness on March 7th 1999. Devoted husband of the late Dr Ester Seifert. Beloved father of Frula - and her husband Ronald Shear. Much loved grandfather and great-grandfather. Services and cremation at Hoop Lane, London NW11 on Wednesday March 10th at 2.30pm. Enquiries: H G Bent & Co, 343 Ladbroke Grove, London W10.

LEWIS - Major General J.M.H. (Mike) Lewis CBE, late of Royal Engineers on 6th March 1999 after a short illness. Husband of Barbara and father of Stephen, James and Clive. Funeral: St Peter's Church, Frimley, near Camberley, 2.30 pm 19th March. Family flowers only. Donations to Macmillan Cancer Relief.

LING - Vivien Mary. Beloved wife of Peter and devoted mother to Victoria, Graham and Tommy. Passed away peacefully on Saturday March 6th 1999 at Clarkson House, Jersey. Enquiries to Pitcher & Le Quesne Ltd. Funeral Directors, tel: (01534) 33330.

MANTON - Patricia Mary. Died peacefully at the Devonshire Nursing Home, Eastbourne, on Saturday 6th March. Grandmother of Mark and James. Funeral Service at Eastbourne Crematorium Family Chapel on Wednesday 10th March at 9.45am.

MORAVEC - Barbara Joan (née Keppel-Compton). Peacefully on 4th March at Bybrook Nursing Home, Box, Wiltshire, aged 97. Funeral at Haycombe Crematorium, Whiteway Road, Bath on Friday 12th March at 4.30 pm. Enquiries to Merrett Funeral Directors, 57A Pickwick Road, Corsham, Wilts. tel: (01249) 713134.

OLIVER - On March 6th, tragically, at Cambridge, Dominique, aged 20 years, having borne leukaemia with optimism. Dear daughter of Jean and John Oliver of Colchester, loved and loving sister of Grace, Clare, Anthony and Aidan. Requiem Mass at the Lady Chapel, Westminster Cathedral on Friday, March 12th at 11.30 am. A commemoration service will be held in the summer term at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

ORRELL - Sarah Christine, lately of H.M. Diplomatic Service. Suddenly on 28th February at West Middlesex Hospital. Beloved daughter of the late Leonard Stanley and Eski. Dearest cousin of Fleur, Michelle and Margot. Funeral Service on Wednesday 24th March at St Stephens Church, East Twickenham at 12 noon, followed by refreshments. Private cremation at Mortlake later. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The Cats Protection League, Ealing Branch. Enquiries to 01488 668253.

PHILLIPS - Audrey Mary at home near Chichester on 4th March 1999 aged 84 years. Formerly of Hereford. Dearly beloved mother and friend of Gillian. Funeral Service at Chichester Crematorium on Monday 15th March 1999 at 4.30 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Council for the Protection of Rural England, c/o Edward White & Son, 5 South Pallant, Chichester PO19 1SY.

POWELL - Air Commodore Griffith (Taffy) Powell CBE peacefully in his sleep at Ashford Hospital, Ashford, Middlesex on Monday 8th March. Funeral at 12 noon on Tuesday 16th March at St Clement Danes, London WC2.

SCOTT - Gideon (Jock) T.L. on March 6th 1999 at Borders General Hospital after a short illness. Beloved husband of Margery and a dear brother to Jimmy, a devoted dad to Robin and Sue and loving grandfather to Andrew, Robert and Steph. Service at Ancrum Parish Church on Thursday 11th March at 1 pm - all welcome. No flowers please. To be followed by cremation at Mortonhall Crematorium, Pentland Chapel, Edinburgh. Family and close friends only please. Donations if desired to Chest Heart and Stroke Association Scotland, 65 North Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3LT.

TOLLETH - Maj. James. T.D. 23rd February 1999. Grateful thanks to West Abbey Nursing Home, Yeovil.

WIDDOWSON - John Owen. Peacefully on 4th March 1999. Dearly loved father of Gillian and father-in-law of Brian, and much loved grandfather of John and Patrick.

WILLWAY - Frances Mary (née Crane), peacefully on 6th March 1999 at Harbledown Lodge Nursing Home in her 101st year. Devoted wife of the late Brigadier Cedric Willway, much loved mother of Michael and Elizabeth, grandmother of Sarah and Pippa and great-grandmother. Funeral at Wye Parish Church at 2.30pm Tuesday 16th March. Family flowers only; donations if desired to Harbledown Lodge Legacy Fund, Upper Harbledown, Canterbury CT2 9AP.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

BARON - Anthony. In most loving memory, always in our thoughts. Ann, Betsy, Andy and all friends and colleagues.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

MANSFIELD - Peter, on your 3rd anniversary, I love and miss you more than ever. Thank you for all your help over the last year. Luis.

SENTA MARNAU - 9.3.1985. Est funiculus triplex qui difficile rumpitur.

هكذا من الأصل

OBITUARIES

JOE DIMAGGIO

Joe DiMaggio, baseball player, died yesterday aged 84. He was born on November 25, 1914.

Although baseball's annual championship is called the World Series, Joe DiMaggio's heroic status is hard to convey to non-Americans for whom the sport remains a mystery. Outsiders would have somehow to imagine a figure who combined the romantic aura of Stanley Matthews, the cat-like grace of Gary Sobers and the self-effacing sportsmanship of Henry Cooper.

DiMaggio — known alternately as the "Yankee Clipper" and "Joltin' Joe" — exemplified the fusion of sport and celebrity. A star of the all-conquering New York Yankees team between 1936 and 1951, he achieved even greater fame in retirement when he became the second husband of Marilyn Monroe.

The marriage ended in acrimony within a year, but the couple subsequently rekindled their friendship, and the laconic, publicity-shy DiMaggio remained a father-like presence in her turbulent private life until her death in 1962.

By the end of his life he had attained something akin to a secular sainthood — one journalist dubbing him "the last American knight". Ernest Hemingway, one of the player's old drinking companions, wove his name into the novella *The Old Man and the Sea*: "I would like to greet the great DiMaggio fishing. They say his father was a fisherman. Maybe he was as poor as we are and would understand."

DiMaggio was also used as a symbol of the slipping away of the American dream, in one of the quintessential pop songs of the Sixties, Simon and Garfunkel's *Mrs Robinson*:

> Where have you gone, Joe DiMaggio?
> A nation turns its lonely eyes to you
> What's that you say, Mrs Robinson?
> Joltin' Joe has left and gone away . . .

The son of a Sicilian-born fisherman, Joseph Paul DiMaggio was born into a large and strict Roman Catholic family in Martinez, northern California. Even though their father called it "a bum's game", two of his brothers, Vincent and Dominic, also went on to careers in Major League baseball.

Tall and lean, DiMaggio joined the San Francisco Seals before finishing high school, and four years later, at 21, he signed with a Yankees side that was still coming to terms with life without the newly retired Babe Ruth.

Playing alongside legends such as Lou Gehrig, DiMaggio soon established himself as a star outfielder, his apparently effortless pace earning him his "Clipper" nickname. A potent striker of the ball too, he helped the Yankees to victory in the World Series in three consecutive seasons from 1936.

All told, he played in ten World Series, and won the accolade of the American League's Most Valuable Player in 1939, 1941 and 1947. Perhaps his greatest achievement of all came in 1941, in what became known as "The Streak". Over the course of 56 games he maintained an unbeaten batting record, a feat that has never been equalled. Beginning on May 15, he had a hit in every game until July 17, easily passing the previous run of 44 games set in 1897.



Joe DiMaggio striking out for the Yankees in 1941, the year of "The Streak", his unparalleled run of hits over 56 games

The country was gripped, and DiMaggio was elevated from being a baseball star to the pantheon of national icons.

When his run finally came to an end in an away game with the Cleveland Indians, some of the home supporters booed their own team. The next day photographs of the Cleveland pitchers appeared on front pages across America — "as if they had assassinated a king," as one baseball historian put it.

In 1943 DiMaggio enlisted in the US Air Force, where he was assigned to physical training units. He returned to baseball at the end of the war, but after a sub-standard season in 1946, he was almost traded to another team. The next year he was back to his best form, scoring two home runs as the Yankees took another World Series.

The 1949 season (in which he became the first player to break the $100,000 barrier) proved the stuff of legend. After missing more than 60 games with a foot injury, he made a belated return, his phenomenal batting carrying the Yankees to league victory over the Boston Red Sox in the final two games of the season. In a crucial game against the Red Sox, he hit four home runs in three games, and went on to score two home runs in the World Series victory over the Brooklyn Dodgers. He was to end his career with a .325 batting average and a tally of no fewer than 361 home runs in 1,736 games.

By 1951 DiMaggio was increasingly falling victim to recurrent ailments, including calcium deposits on his throwing arm, stomach ulcers and arthritis. He retired shortly after his 37th birthday, and in spite of his congenital shyness he became a television sports host.

His introverted character had been apparent during his playing days. Quiet and intense, he remained aloof from his fellow players. As one recalled in later years: "He's one of the loneliest guys I ever knew. And he leads the league in room service."

The next stormy phase of his life began soon afterwards, when he saw the 25-year-old Marilyn Monroe posing in baseball gear, and invited her on a date. Monroe, unaware of his fame, arrived two hours late, but was apparently impressed by his quiet demeanour. DiMaggio was soon visiting her on film sets. They were married in San Francisco in January 1954, beginning their honeymoon by escaping a mob of reporters and autograph-hunters and renting a room in a modest motel south of the city.

Journalists made great play when DiMaggio insisted on a room with a television. Almost from the start there were signs that the couple were ill-matched. DiMaggio, who had married and divorced the actress Dorothy Arnold a decade earlier, was a man of simple tastes whose ideal wife was a conventional homemaker. While his career was already behind him, Monroe was just breaking through to international stardom.

Having fallen for a sex symbol, DiMaggio grew increasingly jealous, complaining about her choice of roles and her revealing costumes. There were frequent rumours about angry silences and outbursts of violence. Matters came to a head in September during the filming in New York of *The Seven Year Itch*, when he saw crowds standing on Lexington Avenue in the middle of the night to watch the famous scene in which a gust of warm air from a subway vent sends Monroe's dress billowing upwards.

Monroe filed for divorce two weeks later. "It just goes to show," observed the comic Joe E. Lewis, "no man can be an expert at our two national pastimes." After the initial thrill of the romance had worn off, Monroe confessed to friends that she was "bored" with her husband's company.

Yet their relationship deepened after their separation. DiMaggio was regularly on hand with emotional and physical support, particularly as Monroe became psychologically unstable. In the final months of her life there was even talk of a possible remarriage. One of the items found in her address book after her death was an affectionate, unfinished letter to him.

In the days that followed, DiMaggio took charge of the funeral arrangements, barring Hollywood figures — including Monroe's former lovers Frank Sinatra and Peter Lawford — from the simple, dignified service. Her third husband, Arthur Miller, also stayed away. In later years DiMaggio pointedly avoided even mentioning her name in public, but he had roses delivered every week to the Los Angeles grave.

The following decades were relatively uneventful. DiMaggio quietly accumulated more business endorsements but lived largely away from the public gaze, surfacing briefly for lucrative autograph sessions or to pitch balls at opening days at Yankee Stadium. He gave few interviews, and lived alone in Florida, also spending a great deal of time with his sister in San Francisco. He devoted time to fundraising for the Florida children's hospital that bears his name.

He is said to have been estranged from the only son of his first marriage, Joe Jr.

PROFESSOR G. H. MOORE

Geoffrey Moore, Professor of American Literature at Hull University, 1962-82, died on February 5 aged 78. He was born in Mitcham, Surrey, on June 10, 1920.

ONE of the founders of American Studies as a subject in British universities during the 1950s, Geoffrey Moore was also a poet, novelist, critic and broadcaster. In 1954 he published *The Penguin Book of Modern American Verse*, but his magnum opus — at 1,328 pages — was *American Literature: A Representative Anthology of American Writing from Colonial Times to the Present* (1964).

Born in London, Geoffrey Herbert Moore saw wartime service in the RAF before reading English at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he took a first in 1947. An appointment as instructor in English at the University of Wisconsin was followed by time as a visiting professor at the universities of Tulane, Kansas City and New Mexico. Returning to Britain in the early 1950s, Moore was a regular anonymous contributor to *The Times Literary Supplement*, and an editor and producer for BBC Television.

In the mid-1950s his senior lectureship in American literature at Manchester University was the first full-time post in the subject at a British university. In 1962 he was appointed Professor of American Literature and head of the new Department of American Studies at the University of Hull, where in 20 years he built up the Brynmor Jones Library's holdings of American literature from virtually nothing. He also helped to create an innovative syllabus, which increasingly attracted student applicants as well as visiting American Fulbright scholars.

The introduction of a four-year single honours degree programme, which included a year's study at one of several major American universities, also owed much to his enthusiasm and range of friendships and contacts in the American groves of academe. Many of these friends — notably James Baldwin, Robert Lowell and Mary McCarthy — also visited Hull.

Following his retirement in 1982, Moore continued to lecture on the essential "American-ness" of American literature to appreciative international audiences. Even in these later years, it could be said of him (as Peter Parish once said of Harry Allen) that he had "an infinite capacity for taking planes". He also became editor of the Penguin edition of the works of Henry James, and reviewed for the *Financial Times*.

An engaging if sometimes acerbic figure, Moore, in his own telling, relished the "bright lights of London", the company of intelligent and attractive women (his marriage to Pamela Marguerite was dissolved in 1962), the exhilaration of driving high-powered cars, and the dubious comforts of health farms. He leaves a daughter in Oxford and a son in California.

PETER COLE

Peter Cole, former television news executive, died of heart failure on March 6 aged 66. He was born on April 26, 1932.

IT WAS a quiet news day on May 30, 1968, when Peter Cole was manning the home news desk on *News at Ten* in Television House, Kingsway, London. His phone rang and a voice said: "I'm Cecil King. I have just been sacked [as chairman of International Publishing Corporation, owners of Mirror Newspapers]. I am coming round to be interviewed."

Suspecting a hoax, Cole phoned back to King's office and verified the caller's identity. ITN broke into afternoon horse racing on ITV with a newsflash. And that is how the world — and *Daily Mirror* executives — learnt about the dramatic departure of the powerful newspaper owner.

Peter Cole was born in Whitchurch, Shropshire, and worked as a journalist on the *Rhondda Leader*, the *Merthyr Express* and the *Western Mail* in Cardiff. His television career began at TWW, the ITV contractor for Wales and the West, where he worked variously as news editor, reporter and sports commentator, specialising in boxing.

Cole in 1996, in retirement from *News at Ten*

He joined ITN as news editor in 1964, three years before the birth of *News at Ten*. In the 1970s he took on a special assignment as news editor of ITN's election night results programmes — *The Nation Decides*, anchored by Alastair Burnet. He was given the task of ensuring that ITN's service of individual constituency results would be faster than the BBC's.

He positioned a stringer in nearly every constituency (more than 600). He kept in close touch with all of them, urged them to make personal contact with every returning officer, and in many cases installed dedicated telephones so that the correspondents could phone a special number in the election studio and pass on the flash result to Burnet. ITN became renowned for its faster service on election night, and that owed a lot to Cole's original system.

In June 1986 a freelance cameraman, George De'Ath, on assignment for ITN in the African township of Crossroads, near Cape Town, was caught between two tribal factions waging war and murdered. Cole, then an editorial executive, flew to Cape Town with a colleague, Norman Rees, and took charge of the complex arrangements that followed. They were almost immediately in trouble with the South African authorities for not having proper visas.

They comforted De'Ath's family and kept in touch with the South African police, who were seeking the killers, though no one was ever charged. Later Cole and Rees organised a memorial service, which was attended by the members of the international media. Cole, on behalf of ITN, set up an endowment at a technical college to fund an annual prize for aspiring cameramen, commemorating De'Ath's name.

The following year he was in action again in Zimbabwe when an ITN stringer was locked up as a suspected South African spy. Cole convinced the authorities that the stringer's scoop (about a South African raid on Zambia) was good journalism, not espionage; the man was released.

Cole retired in 1989 as senior news editor. He loved France (he was an accomplished cook) and he and his family were regular visitors to their house in the Garonne area. In retirement he worked in the media department of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association, and as a media consultant.

Peter Cole was a decent man, loyal to colleagues and dedicated to high journalistic standards. He is survived by his wife Diana, and by a son.

MAJOR DONALD HENDERSON

Major Donald Henderson, GM, bomb disposal expert, died on January 30 aged 77. He was born on December 12, 1921.

IN A career of 17 years in the Explosives Office of the Metropolitan Police, Donald Henderson regularly faced death from terrorist bombs. At Christmastime in 1974, at the height of an IRA bombing campaign, he was called out to no fewer than 72 incidents in eight nights.

But the exploit that won him his George Medal probably represented Henderson's closest brush with death. One evening in 1975, in the middle of a spate of bombings, murder and attempted murder orchestrated by an IRA unit which came to be known as the Balcombe Street gang, Henderson was called to Lockett's Restaurant, in Marsham Street, near the House of Commons, where a clientele which included a number of MPs was dining. Police had spotted a holdall wedged between a window of the restaurant and an iron grille.

The building was cleared and Henderson, who knew that this type of device had a very short delayed action, ran towards the bomb, keeping parked cars between him and the holdall until the last possible moment. The bomb, which consisted of 25lb of high explosive at the core of a packing of heavy screws, was to be triggered by a simple pocket watch. Sizing up the situation in a moment, Henderson cut the wires leading to the detonator and threw the holdall containing the bomb down on to the pavement. When he later inspected it he found that there were only a few seconds left on the timer.

At the trial of the Balcombe Street gang — so named because they were eventually arrested after holding a couple hostage at their flat in Balcombe Street, Marylebone — the judge praised Henderson for his courage in the face of the risks he faced almost daily.

Donald Victor Henderson had come to the Met from the Army which he had joined as a Territorial shortly before the Second World War. After the war he was commissioned in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps as a munitions officer and served in Hong Kong, Korea, Aden and Germany before his retirement in 1964.

That year he joined the Met and with an old friend, Major Geoffrey Biddle (also to win the George Medal for defusing a bomb under Edward Heath's car), set up its Explosives Office at Cannon Row police station. During the escalation of IRA activity in London in the 1970s both he and Biddle were kept busy defusing explosive devices of all types. Henderson was also personally responsible for checking the safety of St Paul's Cathedral for the wedding of the Prince of Wales. He was much in demand as a lecturer on explosive devices to other police forces throughout the world, notably the FBI.

In retirement, from 1981, he wrote a number of books, among them *Bomb Two*. This was a novel which embodied much realistic detail about the technical problems and mental strains confronting the bomb disposal officer.

Henderson's first wife, Joan, died in 1981. In 1983 he married Maisie, whom he and Joan had known from their Service days in Aden. She died in 1994 and he is survived by the two daughters and two sons of his first marriage.

ON THIS DAY

March 9, 1934

This relic of Times past, when the sports pages reported at length on hunt meets, explains how the hunt's earthstopper would block holes in which a hunted fox might take cover.

HUNTING: The earthstopper's duty

FROM OUR HUNTING CORRESPONDENT

THE fox shares with the modern young lady the two-fold cult of speed and slimness. Indeed he only survives on hunting days by means of one or the other; making use of his speed above ground or his slimness in some narrow subterranean retreat. It really is amazing into what a tiny hole a full-grown fox can creep. Some say that where his mask will go the rest of him will follow. It is certain that countless foxes *in extremis* have squeezed into 6-inch pipes or wormed their way down rabbit holes even smaller than that. But luckily the earthstopper is not normally expected to deal with foxes with such confidence in their own compressibility.

Technically, earthstopping is of two varieties — stopping and putting-to. In those coverts which the hounds are going to draw, each earth must be "stopped" during the previous night, while the foxes are out hunting for food. Then when they are wanted they should be found above ground, perhaps curled up near the earth. It is usual to advise that this work should be done between 9 and 10pm for the tradition of going early to bed still lingers in the country, and it is not much use suggesting a later hour. On a stormy night, of course, there is a danger that the foxes may still be underground at that time and may be stopped in — "after a rough night foxes were hard to find." There is also a danger that the earthstopper may take an equal dislike to the weather, may put off his duties until the early morning, and allow his stopping to degenerate into "putting-to." Any earthstopping done on the morning of the meet is called putting-to. It is no help as regards finding foxes, as it is more likely to stop a fox in than out, but if well arranged it succeeds in keeping foxes from running to ground before they have gone a reasonable distance from home.

Of course it is not possible to stop every rabbit-hole into which a fox could crawl. But all earths which foxes use and in which they breed must be regularly stopped and regularly unstopped. Drains are a most pernicious form of shelter and as many as possible should be closed with gratings (at any rate between November 1 and March 1), care being taken to see that they are untenanted when the gratings are fixed. Any other adventitious hole which saves a hunted fox should be dug out at the earliest opportunity or "stunk out" at intervals with tar or renardine.

Holes which foxes are not intended to use cannot be treated too severely. But main earths should be disturbed as little as is consistent with efficient stopping. It is not enough to push two or three branches down each hole, of which one or two are subsequently pulled out. The correct way is to make a faggot of the right size for each hole and to keep it, with a stake, under a convenient tree. It is then the work of a moment to put the faggot into the mouth of the hole and to push the stake through it into the ground, holding it firm against foxes or even badgers. It is equally easy to pull out the stake and the faggot, leaving the earth undamaged and untainted . . .

NEWS

Ramblers win legal right to roam

Ramblers are to get the legal right to roam over four million acres of open countryside under Government plans that were denounced by landowners yesterday as "destroying the goodwill of the countryside".

They insisted that the Government had deliberately misled the electorate by opting for legislation rather than reaching a voluntary agreement .... Pages 1, 4

'Safe' breast implant banned

A breast implant originally extolled for its safety was yesterday withdrawn by the Government after complaints that some women had suffered swollen and inflamed breasts. The decision leaves 5,000 women in Britain uncertain about whether their health may be at risk. The Trilucent implant contains soya oil which was claimed to be completely safe..... Pages 1, 5

Cricket thrashing

The decline of the West Indies as a force in world cricket spiralled further when they were dismissed by Australia for 51............ Page 1

Ulster deadline

The Government gave Northern Ireland's Unionist and republican leaders a deadline of Good Friday to break the deadlock over IRA disarmament or face the collapse of the peace accord clinched exactly one year earlier.....Page 2

Book ratings

Modern classics and great works of literature are to be marked out of ten for sex, violence, happiness and a host of other measures as part of a £300,000 lottery scheme for libraries..................Page 3

New look for nurses

Belts, buckles and hats are out: pleated skirts, culottes and polo shirts are in, according to new guidelines for nurses' uniforms launched by the Royal College of Nursing..............................Page 6

Bible to be rewritten

The Queen's calligrapher has been commissioned by an American university to produce the first new illuminated Bible for 500 years.................................Page 7

Greer backs workers

Germaine Greer chose solidarity over sales when she supported striking workers at the British Library by cancelling her book launch party there............Page 8

Ingham in court

Sir Bernard Ingham, Baroness Thatcher's former media adviser, agreed to be bound over to keep the peace for a year after a feud with neighbours ended in a court appearance.......................Page 9

Youth tagging plan

Child offenders as young as ten could be tagged under proposals prepared by the Government's Youth Justice Board to deal with the rising number of young criminals being locked up.......Page 10

War crime caution

Tony Blair gave a clear warning to President Milosevic, the Yugoslav leader, that he would be held accountable for suspected war crimes if there were any more atrocities in Kosovo.........Page 11

EU presidency tip

Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister once dubbed the "most dangerous man" in Europe, has again been tipped as the next EU President.....Page 13

Family to sue director

The family of a Louisiana woman who say that she was shot in a robbery inspired by Oliver Stone's film *Natural Born Killers* have been given permission to sue the director.............................Page 14

Joe DiMaggio dies

Joe DiMaggio, the baseball legend and one-time husband of Marilyn Monroe, has died at the age of 84.........................Page 15

Monica breaks down at book signing

After just five minutes in the company of the British media, the woman who survived two Grand Jury hearings and six interrogations by Kenneth Starr's prosecutors had to be led away in tears. Monica Lewinsky, who had arrived for the first signing session of Andrew Morton's biography, whispered "I can't do it" before being ushered away wiping her eyes...............Page 1



ALESSANDRO DELLA VALLE / AP

This little pig was adopted: rejected by its mother, a real-life Babe has been taken in by a dog and her puppies in Rosshausen, Switzerland

BUSINESS

Confidence boost: The Chancellor received a major boost ahead of today's Budget as a new survey reported a record jump in confidence amongst City investors......Page 27

Intel saved: A deal between competition watchdogs saved Intel, the world's biggest computer chip maker, from court trial that was to start today..Page 27

Cellnet deal: Cellnet, the mobile telecommunications operator, paid £130 million for Martin Dawes Telecommunications, the largest independent mobile phone service provider in the UK..............Page 27

Markets: The FTSE 100 index rose 3.30 points to 6208.8. The pound fell 0.15 cents to $1.6083 and 0.23p against the euro to 67.67p. The sterling index fell to 102.1.........Page 30

SPORT

Football: Jim Farry was dismissed as chief executive of the Scottish Football Association over the delay involved in the transfer of Jorge Cadete to Celtic....................Page 49

Boxing: The gate receipts for Lennox Lewis v Evander Holyfield are the second highest of all time. $2 million short of those for the 1996 Tyson v Holyfield clash.......Page 52

Rugby union: A third of the support staff at Richmond face redundancy after administrators took over. The playing squad will not be affected in the short term..................Page 48

Golf: Dave Renwick, a 45-year-old Scot, is the favourite to replace Mike Cowan as Tiger Woods's caddie. Renwick has caddied for three recent major championship winners.................................Page 49

ARTS

Think big: Glasgow's Year of Architecture celebrates the work of visionaries in two shows, one devoted to Frank Lloyd Wright and the other to projects conceived on a giant scale.......................................Page 18

Big Screen USA: In our weekly look at the American box office, Robert De Niro takes all the honours for his portrayal of a Mafia boss in *Analyze This*..............Page 19

Caryl singing: *Blue Heart*, two short plays by Caryl Churchill that play tricks with form, time and grammar, ends its world tour in North London...................Page 20

Cartoon king: The bookshop chain Ottakar's is changing its 63 branches with murals depicting famous authors and local luminaries by the cartoonist Chris Burke.......Page 21

FEATURES

Mums: Having children later in life could trigger early menopause. Miranda Ingram reports........Page 16

The big deal: Venetia Williams — once dubbed a racing mix of Margaret Thatcher and Diana, Princess of Wales — has overcome all odds to emerge as a serious challenger to the leading male trainers in the world of National Hunt Racing..................................Page 17

Star lawyer: Frank Presland, a commercial litigator and arbitrator, has a new role: he has become a business manager for international pop stars. The lawyer as business manager — more of an American concept — has been imported to Britain....................................Page 36

No confidence: From next month what you tell your lawyer may not be covered by privilege. New rules come into force that will govern all civil disputes and could have far-reaching consequences for everyone consulting a lawyer.....Page 41

Why is there this strange sense of déjà vu on International Women's Day of having heard it all, of no palpable results despite years of struggle? Why are even hardcore middle class activists lamenting that nothing new is happening when in actual fact so much is happening politically, economically and socially.

The Hindustan Times, Dehli

RADIO & TV

Preview: The maverick artist Jackson Pollock is profiled in *Close Up* (BBC2, 9.30pm) **Review:** "And where, for Pete's sake, was the institutionalised racism?" Joe Joseph on ITV's *Cop Shop*..........Pages 50, 51

The second test

A single currency, Tony Blair told the House of Commons last month, will not make Europe prosperous but EMU "plus fundamental reform in labour, capital and product markets and in our welfare systems can do so". Maybe..........Page 23

Mr Hague's kitchen

If Mr Hague wants to implement "kitchen table Conservatism", he should surround himself with kitchen table Conservatives.......Page 23

The third right of way

Instead of ambling up the path of least resistance to a consensual solution, Mr Meacher has yomped towards confrontation.......Page 23

MATTHEW PARRIS

How can mapmakers begin mapping until the new Countryside Agency has agreed what they are to map? And . . . my goodness me — another general election already. How time flies.......................Page 2

LIBBY PURVES

We have had the headlines about banana skins and banana splits, the stuff about aphrodisiacs and Eurocrats going bananas. It gets less funny by the minute....Page 22

MICHAEL GOVE

Like the Tooth Fairy in reverse, Mr Brown takes away money while he hopes we're sleeping and trusts we will not notice......................Page 22

TESSA KESWICK

The police know the housing estates, the families, the thugs and the yobs. They know a huge amount and they could know everything. But mention arrests and you will be given excuses..........Page 22

Joe DiMaggio, baseball player; **Peter Cole**, television news executive; **G. H. Moore**, professor of American literature; **Major Donald Henderson**, bomb disposal officer.......................................Page 25

Opposition to the euro; flying bishops; closure of museums; Denning remembered; origins of the kilt; French policy in Africa......Page 23

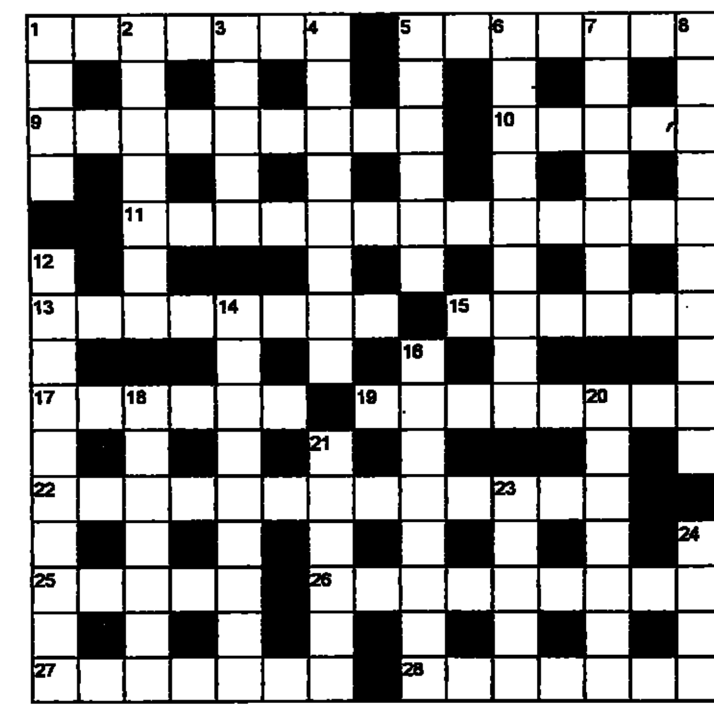
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **INTERFACE**
Dining and drinking in style with the help of your PC

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London's classiest apartment; a passion for pantries; house detectives. All this and more in our ten-page supplement

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,046



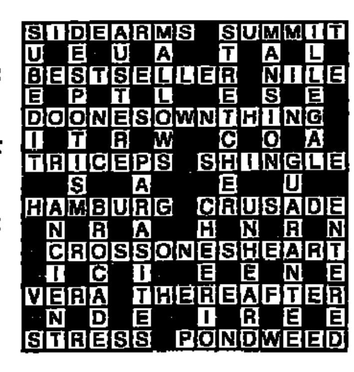
ACROSS

1 Initiation ceremony requiring bishop and appropriate doctrine (7).
5 Pass covering single officer (7).
9 One interfering with speech, possibly critical on party line (9).
10 Like an old American captured on film? (5).
11 Communication system using vehicle with horse daily (4,9).
13 Sailor in search of adventure departing from normal course (8).
15 Mature old Burgundy initially returned to wine-cellar (6).
17 Takes off, making voyage in ship (6).
19 Top vessel taking line aboard (8).
22 Teacher detaining boy little for conduct without skill (13).
25 A fixing device to hold back creeper (5).
26 Writer collecting money due – it could be in bags (9).
27 View of part in play with lines (7).
28 Son invested in reasonable stock (7).

DOWN

1 Fish in deep sound (4).
2 Moral tale, possibly, initially falling on fertile ground (7).
3 Top-class climbing requiring doctors for the feet (5).
4 Military Intelligence fired soldier, perhaps, to become combative (8).
5 Waits to perform these in celebration of a girl (6).
6 Being dishonest and low – how to take it without protest (5,4).
7 Briefly close one's eyes, seeing tasteless work in delicate frame (7).
8 Desired to bring in boss capable of shrewdness (4-6).
12 Copies of bills I am entering into records (10).
14 Deny celebrity's holding up assistance (9).
16 Served four inside – tip added bonus (8).
18 Free to make money from property again (7).
20 About to stir drink excessively (7).
21 Plainly indicate support for spades (6).
23 Assesses taxes (5).
24 Criminal revealed by grass (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,045



Times Two Crossword, page 52

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AA INFORMATION

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.29 am
Sun sets: 5.53 pm
Moon sets: 9.52 am
Moon rises: 12.28 am
Last quarter tomorrow

London 5.53 pm to 6.27 am
Bristol 6.04 pm to 6.37 am
Edinburgh 6.03 pm to 6.43 am
Manchester 6.01 pm to 6.37 am
Penzance 6.17 pm to 6.48 am

FORECAST

☐ **General:** some rain will move across the extreme South East, but the rest of the South, together with Wales and western England, will be brighter with the odd shower. Eastern England will be mostly cloudy with a little drizzle. Eastern Scotland and northeast England will be chilly and breezy with a lot of cloud bringing light rain to most places, turning to sleet or wet snow over the mountains. Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will have some decent sunny spells, and only the odd isolated shower.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, E Midlands:** early rain should soon clear to leave a generally cloudy day. Wind light, northeasterly. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Central S England, SW England, S Wales:** cloudy with some outbreaks of light rain and drizzle, clearing to leave the odd bright spell. Wind light, north-easterly. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Channel Islands:** cloudy with some rain. Wind light and variable. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **W Midlands, N Wales, Isle of Man:** mainly dry and chilly, although it will be predominantly cloudy with only one or two sunny spells, some light rain in the afternoon. Wind light, northeasterly. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **E England, Central N, NE England, Borders:** miserable and chilly with lots of cloud and some outbreaks of rain, some heavy and possibly wintry on the hill tops. Wind light to moderate, northeast. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **NW England, Lake District, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Moray Firth:** any morning brightness will disappear to leave a cloudy and chilly afternoon with some outbreaks of rain, some heavy and possibly wintry on the hill tops. Wind light to moderate, northeast. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands:** any early brightness will disappear to leave a cloudy and chilly day with some outbreaks of mainly light rain and hill sleet and snow. Wind light to moderate, easterly. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland:** mainly dry with some decent sunny spells, although as the day goes by the threat of some showery rain will increase. Wind moderate, east to northeast. Max 7C (45F).

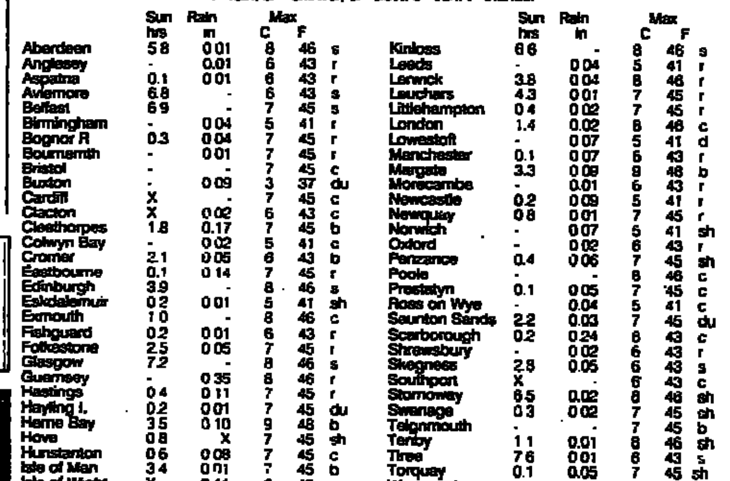
☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** mainly cloudy with the odd shower and a few bright spells at times. Wind light to moderate, south to southeasterly. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** rather cloudy with outbreaks of patchy light rain, more persistent and heavier in the South. A few brighter periods in the North West. Wind moderate, northeasterly. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Outlook:** rain in the South, but milder

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm. b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, ds=dust storm, du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, g=gales, h=hail, r=rain, sh=shower, sl=sleet, s=sun, t=thunder



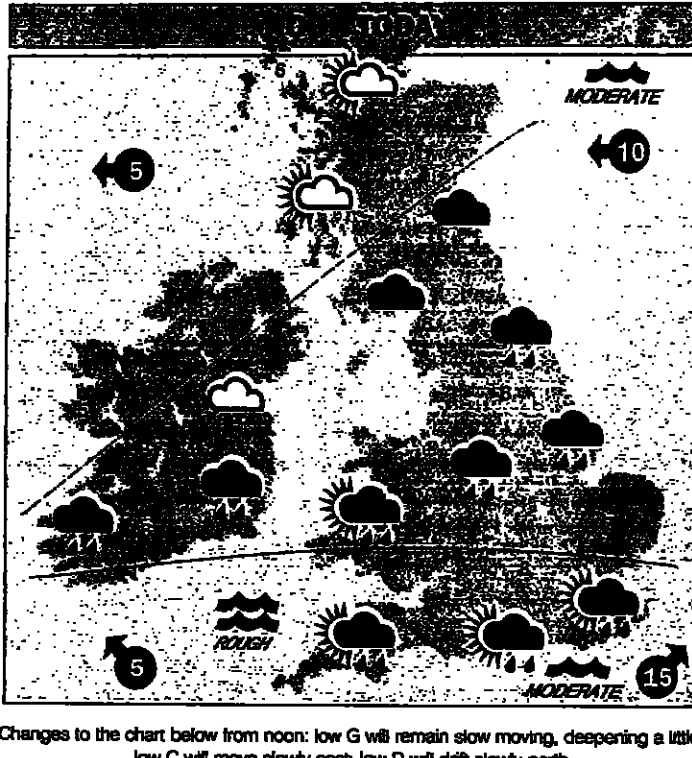
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	5.8	0.01	8	46	s	Kinloss	6.6	-	8	46	s
Anglesey	-	0.01	6	43	r	Leeds	-	0.04	5	41	r
Aspatria	0.1	0.01	6	43	r	Lerwick	3.8	0.04	8	46	r
Aviemore	6.8	-	6	43	s	Leuchars	4.3	0.01	7	45	r
Belfast	6.9	-	7	45	s	Littlehampton	0.4	0.02	7	45	r
Birmingham	-	0.04	5	41	r	London	1.4	0.02	8	46	c
Bognor R	0.3	0.04	7	45	r	Lowestoft	-	0.07	5	41	d
Bournemth	-	0.01	7	45	r	Manchester	0.1	0.07	6	43	r
Bristol	-	-	7	45	c	Margate	3.3	0.09	9	48	b
Buxton	-	0.09	3	37	du	Morecambe	-	0.01	6	43	r
Cardiff	X	-	7	45	c	Newcastle	0.2	0.09	5	41	r
Clacton	X	0.02	6	43	c	Newquay	0.8	0.01	7	45	r
Cleethorpes	1.8	0.17	7	45	b	Norwich	-	0.07	5	41	sh
Colwyn Bay	-	0.02	5	41	c	Oxford	-	0.02	6	43	r
Cromer	2.1	0.05	6	43	b	Penzance	0.4	0.06	7	45	sh
Eastbourne	0.1	0.14	7	45	r	Poole	-	-	8	46	c
Edinburgh	3.9	-	8	46	s	Prestatyn	0.1	0.05	7	45	c
Eskdalemuir	0.2	0.01	5	41	sh	Ross on Wye	-	0.04	5	41	c
Exmouth	1.0	-	8	46	c	Saunton Sands	2.2	0.03	7	45	du
Fishguard	0.2	0.01	6	43	r	Scarborough	0.2	0.24	6	43	c
Folkestone	2.5	0.05	7	45	r	Shrewsbury	-	0.02	6	43	r
Glasgow	7.2	-	8	46	s	Skegness	2.8	0.05	6	43	s
Guernsey	-	0.35	8	46	r	Southport	X	-	6	43	c
Hastings	0.4	0.11	7	45	r	Stornoway	6.5	0.02	8	46	sh
Hayling I.	0.2	0.01	7	45	du	Swanage	0.3	0.02	7	45	sh
Herne Bay	3.5	0.10	9	48	b	Teignmouth	-	-	7	45	b
Hove	0.8	X	7	45	sh	Tenby	1.1	0.01	8	46	sh
Hunstanton	0.6	0.08	7	45	c	Tiree	7.6	0.01	6	43	s
Isle of Man	3.4	0.01	7	45	b	Torquay	0.1	0.05	7	45	sh
Isle of Wight	X	0.11	6	43	r	Weymouth	0.5	0.01	7	45	du
Jersey	0.5	0.30	8	46	r						

ABROAD

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	12	54	c	Cologne	9	48	c	Madrid	8	46	f	Rome	14	57	f
Akrotiri	21	70	s	C'phagn	4	39	c	Majorca	15	59	f	R'nideway	6	43	s
Alex'dria	21	70	f	Corfu	15	59	r	Malaga	16	61	f	Salzburg	3	37	c
Algiers	12	54	f	Dublin	6	43	f	Malta	16	61	s	S Frisco	9	48	f
Amst'dm	5	41	d	Dubrovnik	13	55	f	Melbourne	19	66	f	Santiago	25	77	s
Athens	17	63	s	Faro	13	55	c	Mexico C	21	70	s	Seoul	9	48	s
Bahrain	22	72	f	Florence	12	54	f	Miami	23	73	s	Singapore	31	88	f
Bangkok	33	91	f	Frankfurt	8	46	f	Milan	11	52	f	Stockholm	1	32	d
Barbados	29	84	f	Funchal	15	59	f	Montreal	-9	16	s	Strasb'rg	6	43	c
Barcelona	14	57	f	Geneva	5	41	c	Moscow	1	34	r	Sydney	26	79	s
Beijing	7	45	s	Gibraltar	15	59	f	Munich	5	41	c	Tangier	15	59	f
Beirut	17	63	f	Helsinki	-2	28	c	Nairobi	29	84	f	Tel Aviv	23	73	s
Belgrade	15	59	f	Hong K	26	79	s	Naples	15	59	f	Tenerife	19	66	c
Berlin	6	43	c	Innsbruck	5	41	c	N Delhi	27	81	s	Tokyo	17	63	s
Bermuda	19	66	f	Istanbul	18	64	s	N York	X			Toronto	-6	21	f
Biarritz	6	43	c	Jeddah	31	88	s	Nice	14	57	s	Tunis	18	64	f
Bordeaux	9	48	c	Jo'burg	29	84	s	Oslo	-1	30	sn	Valencia	15	59	s
Brussels	5	41	r	L Palmas	20	68	f	Paris	7	45	c	Vanc'ver	6	43	f
Budapest	13	55	r	Le Touquet	4	39	f	Perth	24	75	s	Venice	9	48	f
B Aires	21	70	f	Lisbon	11	52	f	Prague	5	41	r	Vienna	8	46	r
Cairo	25	77	s	Locarno	9	48	f	Reykjavik	-4	25	f	Warsaw	14	57	s
Cape Tn	25	77	c	L Angeles	15	59	s	Rhodes	20	68	s	Wash'ton	7	45	f
Chicago	3	37	f	Luxembg	3	37	c	Rio de J	26	79	f	Wellington	22	72	X
Ch'church	21	70	X	Luxor	29	84	s	Riyadh	22	72	s	Zurich	3	37	r

Temperatures at midday local time on Sunday. X = not available

WEATHER TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: low G will remain slow moving, deepening a little; low C will move slowly east; low D will drift slowly north

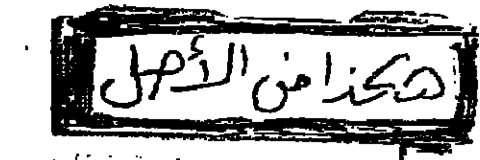


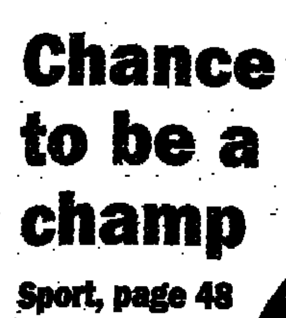
TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	5:32	3.6	17:57	3.5	Liverpool	3:04	8.0	15:22	7.8
Avonmouth	10:57	10.7	23:12	10.3	London Bridge	5:54	6.4	18:15	6.4
Belfast	3:12	3.0	15:42	3.1	Lowestoft	1:30	2.3	13:57	2.1
Cardiff	10:43	10.0	22:58	9.6	Margate	3:56	4.3	16:20	4.1
Devonport	9:39	4.7	22:06	4.6	Milford Haven	10:13	5.7	22:35	5.4
Dover	2:48	5.9	15:09	5.8	Newquay	9:10	5.7	21:33	5.5
Dublin	3:46	3.5	16:27	3.4	Oban	9:29	3.2	22:09	3.0
Falmouth	9:10	4.5	21:37	4.4	Penzance	8:34	4.6	21:00	4.4
Greenock	4:31	2.9	16:34	3.0	Portland	10:32	1.4	22:45	1.3
Harwich	3:38	3.5	15:59	3.3	Portsmouth	3:15	4.1	15:32	3.9
Holyhead	2:17	4.7	14:36	4.6	Shoreham	2:59	[illegible]	[illegible]	5.1
Hull (Albert D)	10:20	7.5	22:40	7.4	Southampton	2:53	4.0	15:16	3.8
Ilfracombe	9:50	7.5	22:11	7.2	Swansea	10:18	10.6	22:45	10.3
King's Lynn	10:27	5.2	22:38	5.2	Tees	8:00	9.1	20:22	9.1
Leith	6:57	4.6	19:22	4.6	Walton-On-Naze	3:37	3.8	15:57	3.6

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

Yesterday's extremes: highest day temp: Herne Bay and Margate, Kent, 9C (48F); lowest day temp: Sennybridge, Powys, 3C (37F); most rain, Guernsey, Channel Isles, 0.35in; most sun, Tiree, Inner Hebrides, 7.6hr

هكذا من الأصل







Chance to be a champ

Sport, page 48

BUSINESS • LAW • SPORT • TELEVISION

THE TIMES 2



Check Fantasy scores

Pages 44-45

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY MARCH 9 1999

Investor confidence rebounds

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Chancellor received a big boost before today's Budget as a new survey reported a record jump in confidence among City investors.

Economic data published yesterday also added to the impression that the economy is set to avoid outright recession and ensure that Gordon Brown remains on track to meet his tough borrowing rules.

The Merrill Lynch Gallup survey of UK fund managers, which was published yesterday, revealed the sharpest jump in confidence in the survey's nine-year history. The number of investors expecting an improved economic situation over the next 12 months doubled to 67 per cent between February and March.

It was the first time in 18 months that a majority of fund managers have expected an overall improvement in the economy and compares with a low of 3 per cent in September.

The improved optimism is also clear in a marked upgrade to corporate earnings predictions with 1999 earnings now expected to rise by 2.9 per cent, compared with an expected 0.8 per cent in January, and reach 6.5 per cent next year.

The manufacturing sector unexpectedly returned to growth in January while the British Retail Consortium monthly sales figures showed retail sales maintaining modest growth in the traditionally weak month of February.

The monthly GDP estimate provided by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research also hinted that the economy has now reached the bottom — without recording an outright decline in GDP — and that growth is to pick up again in the coming months.

Commentary.........29

Mr Brown has been under pressure to reduce his growth assumptions, which at between 1 and 1.5 per cent are well above the City consensus.

However, the string of positive data yesterday, combined with the Bank of England's aggressive rate-cutting stance has boosted hopes that the economy is set to achieve a soft landing and eased the pressure on Mr Brown to make embarrassing revisions to his forecasts in today's Budget.

Official data showed manufacturing output climbed by 0.1 per cent between December and January, bolstering hopes that the struggling sector may have reached the bottom at last. The annual rate of growth, however, continued to show a decline, falling by 0.9 percentage points from a year ago, while overall industrial output also fell by 0.5 per cent in January, compared with December, as the warm weather cut energy output.

Manufacturers also received a boost from the producer prices data which showed that the sector is just avoiding outright price deflation. Factory gate prices rose by 0.2 per cent in February compared with no change in January. Input prices continued to fall in February, although the annual decline of 6.4 per cent was the smallest for a year.

Financial markets yesterday stuck to the consensus that the Budget will take a neutral stance, with shares and the pound barely moving throughout the day. The FTSE 100 index closed up just 3.3 points or 0.05 per cent higher at 6,208.8.

LINKS
WEBSITE:
www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/
Weekend Money website:
http://www.times-money.co.uk

Business Today

Commentary:
No crumbs of comfort 29
Stock Market:
Pre-Budget nerves 30
Equity prices: 33
Unit trusts: 34



Anatole Kaletsky
on a Keynsian debt of gratitude

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STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	6208.8	(+3.3)
Yield	2.56%	
FTSE All Share	2848.79	(+2.75)
Nikkei	14779.05	(-114.95)
New York:		
Dow Jones	9708.46	(-27.92)*
S&P Composite	1274.74	(-0.73)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	[illegible]*	([illegible])
Long bond	[illegible]*	([illegible])
Yield	5.56%*	(5.60%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	5⅛%	([illegible])
Life long gilt future (Jun)	116.37	(116.60)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6090*	(1.6067)
London:		
$	1.6076	(1.6097)
€	1.4773	(1.4835)
SFr	2.3534	(2.3518)
Yen	196.00	(196.80)
£ Index	102.1	(102.4)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.0902*	(1.0832)
SFr	1.4618*	(1.4665)
Yen	121.81*	(122.80)
$ Index	109.0	(109.1)

Tokyo close Yen 121.76

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (May)	$12.25	($11.70)

GOLD

London close	$289.65	($288.45)

* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates ....Page 28

Retailers store wars 'are phoney'

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM
RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

SUPERMARKETS stood accused of staging a phoney price war yesterday as Asda launched a new pricing campaign but admitted that most of the cost would come from its existing marketing budget.

Tesco's price campaign, launched two weeks ago, also came with an assurance to the City that profit forecasts need not be altered.

A Tesco spokesman yesterday declined to say how much its price campaign would cost the company. Somerfield, the fifth-largest supermarket group, also announced £200 million worth of cuts yesterday.

The campaigns have been launched as the Office of Fair Trading prepares to publish its findings from an inquiry into the sector.

Asda said yesterday that it was cutting the price of 1,000 items, with a further 3,000 cuts to come by the end of this year. However, the company admitted that there would have to be price rises among the 20,000 lines that it stocks, partly because manufacturers are raising their prices. Asda is also cutting back on its number of "buy one, get one free" offers in order to fund the price cuts.

Asda said that about £150 million of the £200 million investment will come from existing promotional spend. Analysts said that most of the balance would come from the company's annual budget for price cuts.

Shares in the leading supermarkets eased yesterday. J Sainsbury was worst hit with a fall of 8½p to 352¾p. Andrew Fowler, food retail analyst at Morgan Stanley, said food retailers were in danger of driving down their stock market valuations to the point that they were vulnerable to takeover by foreign players.

"PR hype is all well and good but the companies have to understand that it does bring a cost. The valuations of these companies are frighteningly low, largely because of the headlines about price wars. In reality it is merely marketing, and in line with their strategies," he said.

Another analyst said that sales at Safeway and J Sainsbury, neither of which have announced price initiatives, are likely to be hit by the Asda and Tesco campaigns. "The free publicity is hurting the others, but I am taking it with a pinch of salt," he said.

Deal with watchdogs saves Intel from trial

FROM ANDREW BUTCHER IN NEW YORK

A DEAL with US competition watchdogs yesterday saved Intel, the world's biggest computer chip maker, from a courtroom trial that had been scheduled to start today.

The settlement between Intel and Federal Trade Commission (FTC) officials rescued the semiconductor giant from a courtroom battle just two blocks from where Microsoft is answering charges of violating monopoly laws.

Although competition law experts said Intel's defence was strong, the company was keen to avoid the embarrassments Microsoft has suffered in its trial.

The charges against Microsoft are far broader than those faced by Intel.

The FTC accused Intel of illegally withholding crucial product information from three customers: Compaq, Digital Equipment Corp and Intergraph Corp. Intel answered that its intellectual property rights allowed it to supply information to whichever customers it chose.

Victoria Streitfeld, the FTC's spokeswoman, said commission lawyers "got the relief they wanted" in the settlement.

Craig Barrett, the president and chief executive officer of Intel, said that the agreement with the FTC was "a win-win for both parties".

Mr Barrett said: "We are satisfied that the agreement gives us value for our intellectual property rights."

Details of the settlement will not be released until FTC commissioners formally vote to accept it. Tom Waldrop, a spokesman for Intel, said that the settlement avoided "a trial which would have been lengthy and expensive".

William Kovacic, professor of law at George Washington University, said that the FTC case had been "a shaky thing".

Mr Kovacic said: "The commission was trying to extend the frontiers of the law somewhat and trying to do it in an area of the law where Intel would have a lot of good arguments."

Intel shares, which have suffered recently, rose more than 3 per cent yesterday.

> THE Microsoft case alleges that the software group bundled its Internet Explorer software with the Windows program that comes with most new computers to disadvantage severely the browser of the competing Netscape company. The trial is presently in recess and is expected to resume in April.

MEDIALINK EYECATCHERS



Telephone numbers: Martin Dawes stands to net £75 million from the sale of MDT

Dawes to net £75m from sale of MDT to Cellnet

BY RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR

MARTIN DAWES, the telecoms entrepreneur, will net more than £75 million from the sale of his mobile phone business to Cellnet, it emerged yesterday.

Cellnet, jointly owned by BT and Securicor, has paid £130 million for Martin Dawes Telecommunications (MDT), the largest independent mobile phone service provider in the UK. Directors and senior managers will share £14.3 million in respect of their 11 per cent shareholding.

Based in Warrington and with a staff of 1,300, the business will give Cellnet access to more than 800,000 mainly corporate and small business customers, with a strong presence in the North West. MDT also has 15 retail outlets and three call centres

Yesterday's deal represents a setback for Vodafone, Cellnet's main rival, which has a 20 per cent stake in MDT and most MDT customers subscribe to a Vodafone service.

Mr Dawes, who launched his business in television rental before diversifying into mobile phones, is little known outside his industry. He will now turn his attention to developing Internet interests. MDT will be run by David Goldie, the current managing director.

MDT has offices in Europe, Australia and South America and alliances set up with companies including the Co-operative Bank, Telstra, Scottish Telecom, Opal Telecom and Sony.

Goldman votes for flotation

BY CAROLINE MERRELL,
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

GOLDMAN SACHS, the investment bank, yesterday voted overwhelmingly in favour of flotation in a deal that could pay an average of $100 million (£62.5 million) to each of the bank's 220 partners.

However, Jon Corzine, co-chairman, one of the main architects of the plan, is to leave after the public offering.

All 13,500 of Goldman's employees will benefit from the plan, including 2,500 based in London, and Europe. Details of the share scheme will be unveiled next week. Up to 15 per cent of the bank is expected to be floated on the New York Stock Exchange, while the bank is believed to valued at about $20 billion.

Under the terms of the flotation, employees will not be able to take their shares for three to five years. The original flotation plan was postponed last year because of uncertain stock market conditions.

Union leader could be facing a picket line

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN EDMONDS, the union leader who has been at the forefront of campaigns against heavy-handed managers, could have to face a picket line of his union colleagues after the dismissal of an official over an alleged incident of bullying at his own offices.

The embarrassing prospect faces Mr Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB general union, after two ballots of staff at the union's Wimbledon headquarters in southwest London produced an overwhelming mandate for a strike.

GMB and MSF union members voted by three to one for the action in protest over alleged bullying incidents concerning senior officials.

They want the reinstatement of Warren Glover, an official who, ironically, was recruited for his knowledge and work on bullying in the office.

The strike mandates are just the latest controversy to hit GMB's head office. Last year Mr Edmonds, who has made much of his campaigns for partnership in the workplace, sacked Tom Condon, his head of communications and a highly experienced and well-respected journalist, for "unsatisfactory performance" during a probationary period.

The job was temporarily given to Mick Fisher, the official who is now accused of the bullying incident which led to the dismissal of Mr Glover.

Yesterday Mr Fisher said Mr Edmonds did not want to comment on the strike mandates because there was no immediate strike threat.

He said amicable discussions with union members were continuing.

Reuters executives cash in with £1.04m bonus

BY JASON NISSÉ

EXECUTIVE directors of Reuters Holdings, the global communications group, shared a bonus of £1.04 million last year — the equivalent of 49 per cent of their salaries — in spite of a 7 per cent fall in the company's profits.

Peter Job, the chief executive, was the largest beneficiary with a £255,000 windfall, to take his total remuneration package to £791,000, up from £513,000 in 1997.

Jean-Claude Marchand, the sales director, received a bonus of £173,000, while David Ure and André Villeneuve, who run the trading systems businesses, each received £166,000.

The bonus payments are close to the maximum allowed to be paid out under Reuters' executive remuneration scheme — which limits annual bonuses to 50 per cent of basic salaries.

Reuters defended the payments, saying that the profits only fell because of exchange rate movements.

The company said it has three criteria to determine the payment of a bonus — operating profits, which rose during the year; earnings per share, which also rose though only because of a sharp fall in the tax charge; and meeting "the company's objectives for millennium compliance and euro conversion".

A spokesman said that "some targets were met and some targets were not quite met". He said that no bonuses were paid in 1997.

Payments to the executive directors represent only 2.1 per cent of the total cash bonus paid out to employees by Reuters last year, which totalled more than £50 million.

Albemarle raids market to pick up 18.6% Albright stake

By Paul Durman

THE American company bidding £408 million for Albright & Wilson quickly picked up an 18.6 per cent stake in its target yesterday, despite widespread suggestions that Albright could attract rival offers.

Albemarle Corporation, of Virginia, spent about £76 million buying shares in the market at its offer price of 130p. It is unusual for institutional investors to accept a takeover bid at the outset of an offer period.

Albright's recommendation of the Albemarle offer as "on balance ... reasonable" was lukewarm. It recognised that "the low stock market rating of ... medium size chemicals companies limits Albright & Wilson's options to participate in the continuing consolidation of the specialty chemicals industry and consequently reduces its prospects for long term growth".

Asked about a boardroom split on the deal, Paul Rocheleau, Albright's chief executive, said: "It's fair to say there was careful deliberation around the board. We have had to consider the short-term prospects for the company in the global chemicals industry, which continues to be challenging during 1999."

Phillips & Drew, the largest shareholder with a 25 per cent stake, has not accepted the Albemarle offer in the hope that a higher bid will emerge.

It is understood that at least three other potential bidders have expressed an interest in Albright and its phosphates-based business in recent weeks. These include Rhodia of France, but its parent, Rhône-Poulenc, may be too busy with its attempt to merge with Hoechst of Germany. Witco, of the US, is another name mentioned.

Albemarle is smaller than Albright when measured by its $820 million (£510 million) of sales or 2,700 employees, but it claims a better record of improving profits. Floyd Gottwald, Albemarle's chairman and chief executive, said the synergies were unusually good in areas such as flame retardants, pharmaceutical intermediates and detergents.

He said he had no plans to close any of Albright's factories, and any reduction of staff numbers was more likely to be by retirements than redundancies. About 1,500 of Albright's 5,000 employees are in the UK. Mr Gottwald said: "I certainly hope we will be able to retain all of their management. It will be harder to do without them."

Albemarle is offering a 70 per cent premium to Albright's price before bid talks were announced in January. Shares in the UK company, which has struggled to lift profits since floating four years ago, closed at 129½p.

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CIT buys Canadian lender

America's CIT Group is buying Newcourt Credit Group, of Canada, for $4.2 billion (£2.6 billion) in shares, creating one of the largest publicly owned non-bank lenders. Combined, the companies will manage $50 billion in assets, consisting mainly of loans financing consumer purchases, business purchases of equipment, and commercial operations such as venture capital investments and corporate restructurings. Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank, the Japanese bank that is CIT's largest shareholder, will own 24 per cent of the enlarged group.

Candover ahead

Net assets at Candover Investments, the venture capital group, increased by 25 per cent last year to reach £199.5 million or 877p a share, up from 703p.

Pre-tax profits at the group for 1998 rose 66 per cent to £12.1 million. The company declared a total dividend for the year of 25p against 20p the previous year.

WSP profits up

WSP group, the consulting engineer, lifted pre-tax profits to £4.68 million from £3.25 million in 1998 on turnover that climbed to £77.36 million from £57 million. Earnings rose to 10.4p a share from 7.3p. The total dividend is lifted to 3.3p a share from 2.8p with a 1.9p final. The shares rose 3p to 186p.

Migraine claim

About one third of the migraine sufferers who have taken Vanguard Medica's new treatment received relief from their headaches within two hours, the company claimed yesterday. There are concerns that sales of the drug, to be marketed as Miguard, will be hampered by fears that it is slower acting than rival medicines. Payments of £10.9 million from Elan, which is to market Migaurd, enabled Vanguard to report that at the end of 1998 it had £48.3 million in cash with annual losses down by a quarter to £16 million.

IMI has £300m to buy other engineers

By Adam Jones

IMI said yesterday that it had a £300 million "war chest" to buy other engineers, allaying fears that its depressed share price might hold back expansion.

IMI, whose products include drink dispensing machines, valves and other engineering components, has had a subdued start to 1999.

Gary Allen, chief executive, said yesterday that the order book in the first quarter was more than 4 per cent down on the same period in 1998, although the situation was stabilising. IMI had been affected by the strong pound, the General Motors strike and the turmoil in the Far East and Russia.

However, 1998 results published yesterday showed that IMI made a record profit before tax of £167 million, up 12 per cent on 1997. Sales rose just 1.5 per cent to £1.455 billion. Before exceptionals, earnings per share were 30.4p (30.7p). A dividend of 9.1p per share has been declared, making 14.8p (14p) for the year.

Mr Allen said about 700 jobs were likely to be cut this year, including about 150 in the UK. The shares, which peaked at 532p last May, rose from 235p to 252p.

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PETER TRIEVNOR

Ron Spinney, Hammerson chief executive, sees no signs of over-supply in London offices

Boost for Hammerson

By Carl Mortished

STRONG GAINS in its London office and French retail properties sparked a rise in Hammerson shares yesterday. The property group revealed a 10.5 per cent increase in net asset value to 485p per share in the year to December, helping the stock price gain 11p yesterday to 418½p.

Gains of almost 10 per cent in value for its UK offices surprised property analysts, who have been warning of a slowdown in demand for office space from financial institutions. Ron Spinney, chief executive of Hammerson, said that, unlike a decade ago, there were no signs of over-supply in the London office market, though occupiers were becoming more discerning in their choice of properties.

While Hammerson's French retail property also showed strong growth, gaining 10 per cent last year, UK retail space showed evidence of the consumer slowdown with a 5.5 per cent increase in value.

Hammerson, which last week formed a partnership with Land Securities to develop shopping centres in Birmingham, increased its pre-tax profit for the year by almost 10 per cent to £68.8 million, excluding an exceptional gain of £13 million from the sale of its Canadian portfolio. Mr Spinney said that rent increases added £5 million to the underlying profit gain, while acquisitions contributed £3.5 million, offset by increased interest costs.

Hammerson is increasing the dividend by 5.5 per cent to 8.68p.

Persimmon delivers upbeat assessment

By Robert Cole

DUNCAN DAVIDSON, chairman of Persimmon, the housebuilder, delivered a strongly upbeat assessment of the prospects for the UK housing market yesterday.

The comments, partly designed to lift the gloom that has shrouded the sector for the past six months, came as Persimmon posted a 20 per cent increase in pre-tax profits for 1998 — a year that many feared would bring widespread profit declines from housebuilding companies.

Sales of Persimmon properties fell 1 per cent to 6,483 but it managed to increase profits by raising selling prices by an average of 6 per cent and squeezing costs. The group also sold larger houses.

Mr Davidson said that since the new year sales of newly built properties were 10 per cent higher, and the revenues from sales were also up by a tenth. He also said he believed housebuilding as an industry would not be nearly so cyclical in the future with low interest rates underpinning stability.

Pre-tax profits for 1998 were £60.5 million up from £50.5 million. Earnings per share rose to 25.1p from 21.3p. The final dividend is 7.1p which makes a total of 10.4p (10p).

Solid returns from Nycomed

By Paul Durman

NYCOMED AMERSHAM, the medical imaging group, is still seeking buyers for its pharmaceutical business, which suffered a tough 1998 because of the Russian economic crisis.

A 6 per cent fall in profits at Nycomed Pharma to £37.7 million was the principal weakness in solid results for the first full year since Amersham International merged with Nycomed of Norway and Pharmacia Biotech of Sweden.



Castell: nothing imminent

Nycomed Pharma is strong in Scandinavia but it also has a large business in Russia. Bill Castell, chief executive of Nycomed Amersham, said: "It's a good company with good cashflows and good profits. We want Pharma to be part of a group that sees it as part of its major business. Nothing's imminent: we talk to people every day but we only marry occasionally."

The group reported a 12 per cent improvement in pre-tax profits to £222.8 million, helped by £32 million of savings from the merger. The shares rose 25p to 460p.

The imaging business overcame continuing falls in prices in the US X-ray market to increase operating profits by 14 per cent to £158.9 million. Sales of iodine seeds to treat prostate cancer more than doubled to £42 million, while Myoview, the heart imaging agent, was 41 per cent ahead at £43 million. Amersham Pharmacia Biotech, which supplies tools and services used in drug discovery, had a strong second half to increase profits by 23 per cent to £73.4 million.

A final dividend of 3.5p makes a total of 5.3p a share, equivalent to a 15 per cent increase.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Gokal appeals over BCCI conviction

A PAKISTANI shipping tycoon who crippled the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) and was jailed for 14 years at the Old Bailey, took his case to the Court of Appeal yesterday. Abbas Gokal, 62, who was convicted by a jury in 1997 of fraud and false accounting at the conclusion of a 122-day trial, received the steepest sentence of its kind to be meted out by a British court. When he was sentenced, Mr Justice Buxton, the trial judge, said Gokal's actions had threatened the integrity of the entire international banking system.

Gokal, former chairman of the Gulf Group, siphoned £750 million from BCCI through a maze of offshore companies, threatening ruin for thousands of bank depositors, including the Western Isles council in Scotland. As well as his sentence, Gokal was also ordered to pay £2.9 million out of his personal assets within two years, or face another three years in prison. One of the main grounds of appeal centres on the circumstances in which Gokal, who was arrested in Germany, was brought within this jurisdiction. The appeal continues today.

Allied Waste deal

ALLIED WASTE Industries is acquiring Browning-Ferris Industries, a rival US waste management company, for $9.1 billion (£5.65 billion). The deal will create America's second-largest waste company, behind Waste Management, with annual revenues of $6.6 billion and interests in landfills, waste collection networks and recycling operations. Allied Waste expects the merged entity to save $290 million in the first year. Disposals are likely to raise $900 million.

Fortis in $2.6bn buy

FORTIS, the Belgo-Dutch financial services group, moved to create a leading speciality credit insurance group in the US yesterday with the $2.6 billion (£1.6 billion) acquisition of American Bankers Insurance. The plan is to merge Fortis's US subsidiary, American Security, with ABI. Last year ABI looked to set to fall into hands of Cendant before the troubled US services conglomerate pulled out. Last year Fortis spent £7 billion buying Belgium's Generale Bank.

Servisair fights back

SERVISAIR, the airport baggage handling and support services group, is in "detailed discussions" with a number of outside parties in its attempt to see off a hostile takeover by Amey. After Servisair put out its second defence document yesterday, Amey, said that it will not raise its 200p offer that values Servisair at £81.5 million. Servisair said pre-tax profits for last year fell by £1 million to £6 million after it lost its American Airlines contract. The total dividend is 5.5p (5.3p).

Caradon triple sale

CARADON, the builder's merchant, continued its divestment programme yesterday with the sale of three businesses. Its UK doors and windows business has been sold to Bardox, for £40.3 million. BetterBilt, its American doors and windows business, has been sold to MI Home Products for £10.4 million. Caradon's garage door manufacturer has been sold to its management for £2.5 million. Caradon also spent £30 million to take a controlling stake in Turkish radiator business Termo Teknik.

Hillsdown disposal

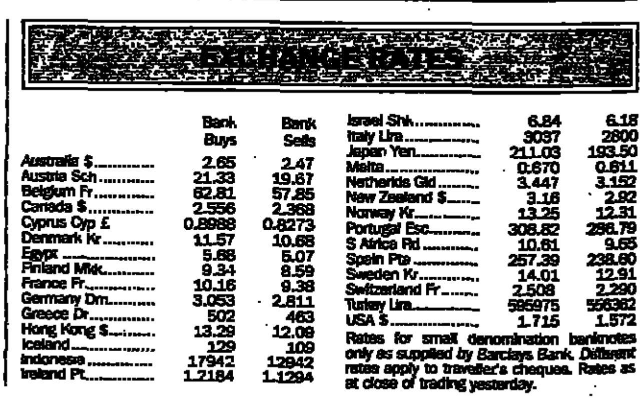
HILLSDOWN HOLDINGS, the food manufacturer, is raising £24.4 million through the disposal of Holco, its Dutch canning operations, in the latest stage of a protracted restructuring process. Holco is a canner and processor of mushrooms, with associated operations in Poland, Germany and Belgium. In 1998 it contributed operating profits of 5 million guilders (£1.5 million) on turnover of 240 million guilders. The business is being sold to a group of private investors.

Trafficmaster motors

SHARES of Trafficmaster motored yesterday after the traffic information group announced an agreement with the German group Mannesmann to market its network of traffic information services in Europe and to car manufacturers. News of the deal came as the company also announced a thirteenfold rise in earnings per share to 11.3p as the company reported pre-tax profits for 1998 of £3.2 million (£241,000). Trafficmaster shares rose more than 20 per cent, up 202½p to £10.30.

Bunzl profits ahead

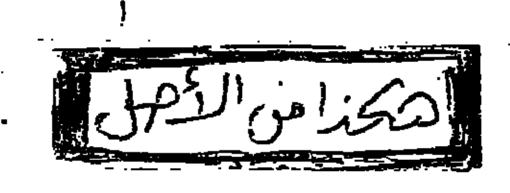
BUNZL, the international services group, reaped the benefit of a move away from its traditional paper and packaging business to achieve a 15 per cent rise in operating profits from continuing businesses last year. The company also achieved a 7 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £132.3 million before tax and exceptional items, helped also by increased exposure to the US economy. Bunzl yesterday announced the £28.5 million takeover of Provend, a provider of vending services and supplies.

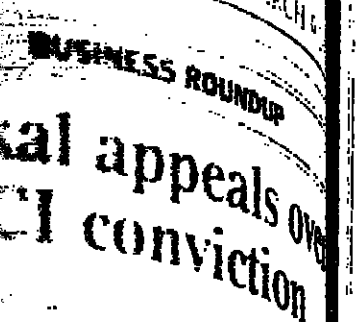


EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.65	2.47
Austria Sch	21.33	19.67
Belgium Fr	62.81	57.85
Canada $	2.556	2.368
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8988	0.8273
Denmark Kr	11.57	10.68
Egypt	5.68	5.07
Finland Mkk	9.34	8.59
France Fr	10.16	9.38
Germany Dm	3.053	2.811
Greece Dr	502	463
Hong Kong $	13.29	12.08
Iceland	129	109
Indonesia	17942	12942
Ireland Pt	1.2184	1.1294
Israel Shk	6.84	6.18
Italy Lira	3037	2800
Japan Yen	211.03	193.50
Malta	0.670	0.611
Netherlds Gld	3.447	3.152
New Zealand $	3.16	2.82
Norway Kr	13.25	12.31
Portugal Esc	308.82	286.79
S Africa Rd	10.61	9.65
Spain Pta	257.39	238.60
Sweden Kr	14.01	12.91
Switzerland Fr	2.508	2.290
Turkey Lira	595975	556362
USA $	1.715	1.572

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.





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No crumbs of comfort for EMI

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

The directors of EMI are clearly a kind and generous bunch. Last April, they handed out £12.5 million to soothe the feelings of Jim Fifield. Now they are proffering an £800,000 farewell gift to Sir Colin Southgate, as he heads off to spend more time with his opera house. And who should take Sir Colin's well-remunerated place? After employing headhunters to scour the world, the EMI directors plumped for Eric Nicoli. Well, they all know Eric, since he is one of their number, and he could do with a break after all those years labouring at United Biscuits. There were even suggestions that he might soon be in need of a new job if UB shareholders had their way. So who better for the top job?

The stock market, alas, is not as kind-hearted as the EMI board. News of Eric Nicoli's appointment resulted in United Biscuits shares rising and EMI's heading in the opposite direction. If Mr Nicoli succeeds in doing for the music company what he has done for UB, then EMI's share price is set to underperform the market even more drastically than it has been doing. It is not for nothing that City wags are apt to abbreviate the UB chief executive's name to E-coli.

But the latest chapter in the EMI saga is no laughing matter. That Sir Colin Southgate should be receiving another year's salary from the company is the sort of corporate lunacy that investors ought to rise up against. The company was struggling when Sir Colin decided that he could not resist the lure of the Royal Opera House. He took some persuading that he could not be both chairman and effective chief executive of EMI whilst also trying to sort out the most appalling management and financial chaos that had been allowed to develop at Covent Garden. Eventually, however, he was persuaded that there had to be new leadership at EMI.

This would not have been such a problem were it not for the way that the succession issue at EMI had been so badly bungled, a mess for which Sir Colin must take much of the responsibility. Almost handing over the chief executive baton to Jim Fifield only to withdraw it at the last moment was a costly mistake.

Now the company has decided that it really does not need a chief executive when it has two such excellent divisional bosses. What it needs is a man of strategic vision and leadership. To those who have watched UB crumble under his eight-year reign as chief executive, this does not sound like Eric Nicoli. But at least there will be someone sitting in the chair that Sir Colin is voluntarily vacating. But why should Sir Colin be paid to go? His contract has another year to run but it was only ever expected that he would have to fulfil the two years if it took that long to find a successor. He has promised to make himself available to offer advice to Mr Nicoli, who will certainly need it, but the price seems high even for Sir Colin's consultancy.

Brown faces the simplicity test

Wise Chancellors know when to take a rest. If Gordon Brown needed any further evidence that he should deliver a short, broadly neutral Budget today, it was supplied by the latest tidings from Britain's factories. Output has turned up but so, unfortunately, have suppliers' prices. It probably does not mean much, except that this is not the moment to panic about the economy.

The Treasury has been more optimistic than most and still wants to show enough responsibility to encourage the Bank of England to keep cutting short-term interest rates freely. The Exchequer surplus seems to be running more than £3 billion higher than the £4.3 billion forecast in November. It should stay above that in 1999-2000 on present policies, so there is not the slightest excuse for fiscal tightening.

Pre-ordained real duty increases on petrol and tobacco should provide enough extra revenue to cut some taxes. For the sake of simplicity and incentives, it should go to raising the basic tax-free income allowance for all nearer to the level implied by the minimum wage in the spirit of the minimum wage.

Instead, unless the pre-Budget hints have been more than usually misleading, our driven Chancellor will surely bring in a series of complex tax cuts carefully targeted at deserving groups, such as millionaire high-tech entrepreneurs, at the expense of a series of new tax measures against anti-social people, such as motorists and heirs.

A good if rough and ready way to judge any Budget is to weigh up whether it makes the tax system simpler and more equal for all or more complex, likely to distort people's behaviour and breed loopholes faster than the old ones can be closed.

Last year Mr Brown reformed capital gains tax to make it more penal and much more complex. This year, he is likely to offer new concessions for those who hired the most convincing lobbyists.

A good reform of inheritance tax would slash the top rate to 20 per cent to maximise revenue. A bad one will try to stop people escaping to maximise punishment.

As the Liberals' Malcolm Bruce and almost any tax expert will agree, introducing another new income tax rate, at 10p, would be daft. Better to cut existing rates. Best to boost the tax-free allowance for all.

New Labour thinks that if you are clever enough, you can cut taxes without benefiting those who pay most. That way lies tax madness and a corrupt economy.

Uncomfortable deal at Chesterfield

Shareholders in Chesterfield, the property company, may be about to lose their chief executive — but only if they vote in favour of a deal that will offer him the chance to run his own, potentially very lucrative, management company.

Robert Maxted has not had a glorious reign at Chesterfield, with the share price ebbing away even faster than the net asset value. Now the company has hit on the idea of breaking itself up. A chunk is to be sold to GE Capital of the United States, and Mr Maxted has agreed a deal with GE whereby his new company will manage the portfolio. He will also look after another couple of sites being sold to Delancey Estates. Mr Maxted is sensibly not resigning his post at Chesterfield unless shareholders vote through the property sales.

The prices are, we are assured, those that Healey & Baker, the valuer, put on the properties at the end of last year: neither GE nor Delancey are being granted specially favourable deals. It would be quite wrong to think that Mr Maxted was gaining undue benefit from the arrangement. On the contrary, although the company would not dream of saying such a thing publicly, it might portray the deal as a clever way of extricating the chief executive without the nuisance of having to pay a hefty severance package.

Roger Wingate, the chairman who owns almost a third of Chesterfield, is happy with the arrangement. Other shareholders might feel uneasy.

Tour guide

THOMSON Travel shares have travelled nowhere since they arrived, packed and all ready for take-off ten months ago, in spite of all the bids and deals suddenly convulsing the industry. Early days perhaps, especially as the vendor's aim was to maximise the proceeds. But it is already beginning to look like another example of the rule that stretches all the way from Eurotunnel via Forte to Sketchley. Never buy a share for the perks unless you reckon you can get your money back from the perks alone.

Inchcape says Asian recovery a year away

BY PAUL ARMSTRONG

INCHCAPE, the international vehicle distributor, handed down a worrying prognosis yesterday for companies reliant on South-East Asian markets, saying the first signs of an economic recovery in the region were still at least one year away.

Peter Johnson, who will be the company's next chief executive, said Asian economies were bouncing along the bottom of the cycle.

Mr Johnson, currently head of Inchcape's vehicle division, painted the bleak outlook after Inchcape, whose chairman is Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge, unveiled a £297.6 million pre-tax loss for 1998, down from an £89.6 million profit previously.

The red ink was mainly a result of exceptional charges of £403.7 million, most of which stemmed from the write-off of goodwill and lower asset valuations associated with the businesses it sold in the year. However, it also included a £124.7 million write-off of goodwill associated with the vehicle distribution business.

Pre-tax profit before exceptionals slumped 42 per cent to £106.1 million. The result was 35 per cent lower than 1997 after allowing for the company's reduced stake in Toyota (GB).

Profit was hit by the weakness in Asian and South American markets as well as the strong pound.

The result was slightly below market expectations and the shares fell 8p to 139p.

A final dividend of 6.6p was declared, taking the year's payout to 11.2p (11p).

Mr Johnson, who will become group chief executive on July 1, said he expected Hong Kong and Singapore markets to deteriorate further this year, although he was confident Inchcape would outperform to record steady earnings there. Continental Europe would be similar to last year but the UK market was expected to decline by as much as 10 per cent.

The company unveiled plans last year to focus solely on its vehicle distribution business, prompting the sale of its six other businesses.

It has sold four, raising £550 million, and negotiations to sell its interests in Marketing Middle East and Office Automation are expected to be concluded by June and generate a further £100 million.

Inchcape has committed itself to making a cash return to shareholders from the proceeds, with analysts tipping a payout of between 80p and 110p a share.

Mr Johnson said: "It is going to be a tough year. We can perform in tough years but we can't be totally isolated from the conditions."

Marshall: overseen disposals

No cheer for EMI move by Nicoli

THE market gave an uncharitable reception to the news that Eric Nicoli was leaving his job as chief executive of United Biscuits to replace Sir Colin Southgate as chairman of EMI, the music group (See Commentary, this page).

Shares in EMI fell 8¾p to 440p while United Biscuit rose 2p at 183p. Mr Nicoli will be replaced by Leslie Van Walle, 43, a Frenchman who is chief executive of United Biscuit's McVitie's Group.

United Biscuits, meanwhile, said yesterday that it was in talks to create the UK's largest specialist seafood company, with turnover of £300 million. It announced it was in preliminary discussions with Legal & General about merging its Young's seafood business with L&G's Bluecrest Seafood. The deal is likely to involve a 50-50 joint venture.

SMG in price warning to potential bidders

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

ANDREW FLANAGAN, chief executive of Scottish Media Group, gave warning yesterday that anyone wanting to take over the company would have to "warm up their wallets and pay a big price".

He was responding to growing market speculation that the willingness of Mirror Group to sell its 20 per cent and the possibility that Flextech could be tempted to follow suit with its similarly sized holding.

Mr Flanagan, who said the company wanted to remain independent, said there was no sign of a bidder coming forward.

This was a factor in a 34p drop in SMG's share price yesterday to 848p despite announcing a 12 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to a record £46 million before exceptionals in the year to December. The shares have enjoyed a recent run after touching a 12-month low of 608½p in September. The total dividend rises to 24.2p from 22.5p.

SMG also said yesterday that £7 million in exceptional gains from the failed attempts to acquire Ulster Television and video group VCI were being used to offset the £3.4 million pre-launch costs of the *Sunday Herald* and a £3.8 million write down in the value of the group's newspaper offices after a decision to relocate.

☐ Scottish Radio Holdings yesterday announced its first acquisition in the expanding outdoor advertising market by paying £27.5 million for Trainer, outdoor contractor based in Scotland.

Millennium reassurance by CMG

CMG, the computer software installation consultant, reassured investors yesterday that it believed it would not be hit by problems in the run up to the millennium date change (Robert Cole writes).

Some fear that computer services companies will see a slowdown in business later this year as customers defer information technology investment programmes until after the turn of the century. Cor Sutterheim, the chairman, said: "We are confident that any short-term disruption will not impede CMG's ability to grow ahead of its market in its chosen areas of operation."

CMG reported £57.5 million pre-tax profits, up 49 per cent. Earnings were 30.5p a share (20p). A 4p final dividend makes a 6p total (3.9p).

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Accounting firms set to merge

The accountancy firms Pannell Kerr Forster and Robson Rhodes are to merge on May 1. Pannell Robson, will maintain Pannell's place as the eighth-biggest firm in the UK with combined turnover of £120 million and 2,100 staff. Yesterday the firms disclosed that Robson Rhodes's average profits per partner was £90,000 compared with £120,000 for PKF.

NatPower gas deal

National Power moved into the household gas market yesterday by buying Calortex, a joint venture between Texaco and Calor Gas. Analysts estimate National Power paid about £20 million for the business that has assets of £9 million and sales of £77 million.

Vita on the up

British Vita, the industrial plastics group, reported a 10 per cent jump in full-year pre-tax profits before goodwill amortisation to £73.7 million. The group has proposed a final dividend of 4.75p, making a full-year total to 9.25p (8.75p).

Volvo go ahead

[Volvo shareholders have authorised the Swedish company to sell its passenger car operation to Ford for £4 billion, opening the door to a £750 million share buyback.

Courtaulds sale

Courtaulds Textiles said yesterday that it is considering selling its furnishings division because it is too small.



Mr Isaacson, Mr Abraham and Paul Rivers, financial director

Tasty Chez Gérard

GROUPE Chez Gérard, the London restaurant operator, demonstrated the resilience of the eating out market yesterday with a 16 per cent rise in half-year profits to almost £2 million (Dominic Walsh writes).

A buoyant Christmas contributed to a 7.7 per cent rise in like-for-like sales in the six months to December 27, with turnover 43 per cent higher at £19.1 million. The second half started slowly. Earnings per share, excluding goodwill amortisation reached 7.7p (7.2p) and the interim dividend rises to 1.27p (1.15p).

The co-founders, Neville Abraham and Laurence Isaacson, rejected suggestions that they are seeking to sell all or part of the company.

Edington quits BAA over listing decision

BY CARL MORTISHED

BAA'S group property director quit the board yesterday following last week's decision to scrap plans for a separate stock market listing for Lynton, the company's property development arm.

Gordon Edington, who was chief executive of Lynton when it was sold to BAA in 1989, said he would not seek a new role in property but would focus on his family assets and charitable interests.

The airports group was considering the flotation of the non airport-related property assets, totalling some £600 million with Mr Edington at the helm. However, BAA decided against the move, in part due to the poor market perception of property shares.

Mr Edington, 53, is to be replaced as managing director of Lynton by Andrew Jurenko, currently finance director of the property subsidiary.

BAA said yesterday that a separate statement would be made in the annual report concerning any compensation for Mr Edington. He is on a two-year contract and was paid a salary of £240,000 per year in 1998, which could entitle him to £480,000 in compensation.

Mr Edington is president of the British Property Federation and in addition to running BAA's property business, was chairman of BAA International, developing the company's overseas airport business.

Thomson's caution hits shares

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

SHARES in Thomson Travel Group (TTG), the market-leading tour operator floated last May amid huge demand from private investors, fell 6 per cent yesterday after the company admitted it was "cautious" about this summer's trading.

Paul Brett, group chief executive, said bookings to date for this summer are 2 per cent down on 1998's figures, although this is better, he said, than the 3 per cent fall across the market as a whole.

TTG, which has made seven acquisitions since floating, is looking to continue its expansion strategy, but Mr Brett said: "There is nothing large on the stocks at the moment, although there is no predicting when a major opportunity may come along." Analysts took this to mean that TTG is not among the bidders for First Choice, the number four in the UK market behind Airtours and Thomas Cook, which said last week it had received approaches.

TTG posted a 10 per cent rise in pro forma profit before tax to £123 million. The shares, however, fell 10½p to 161p against a flotation price of 170p. They had recently recovered from last year's fall which took the price as low as 106½p.

A fifth of the 500,000 private investors who bought shares at flotation have exercised their right to a 10 per cent discount on Thomson holidays. The inaugural final dividend is 2.25p, making 3p for the year.

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Pre-Budget nerves keep investors on sidelines

CITY investors were cautious ahead of today's Budget. Hopes that Wall Street could extend last week's record-breaking run and provide London with fresh impetus proved wide of the mark. As a result, share prices found the going difficult with investors happy, instead, to contemplate what the Chancellor may have in store.

The market reversed an early 31-point fall before closing little changed on the day. The *FTSE 100 index finished 3.3 up* at 6,208.8 in thin trading that saw just 946 million shares change hands. The FTSE 250 index put on 10.8 at 5,359.2.

It was the first day of official trading in **South African Breweries**, with the price frothing 20p to 485p having started trading last week on the grey market at the equivalent of the 428p being quoted on the Johannesburg stock market. Almost 2.5 million shares had changed hands. At these levels, the brewer is valued at almost *£4 billion*, which means it will be automatically catapulted into the top 100 companies when the steering committee meets tomorrow.

Bid talk was responsible for a rise of 8½p to 51½p in **London Forfaiting**. A total of 1.28 million shares were traded with some of the buying said to *have originated in the US. This* has led to claims that a bid of at least 120p a share is being lined up which would value the business at £126 million.

Inn Business, the tenanted pub group, ticked up 5p to 63½p on rumours that a recent approach from **Enterprise Inns** may have sparked interest from other parties. Enterprise, unchanged at 395p, is understood to have made an indicative offer of about 75p, whereas Inn Business is thought to be looking for between 80p and 90p. Alchemy, the venture capitalist, is being tipped as a possible counterbidder, while **Century Inns**, off 1p at 110½p, is viewed as a potential merger partner.

Alchemy is also in talks to acquire **Swallow Group**'s Vaux Breweries arm for just under £70 million. Although the four-week period of exclusivity has elapsed and there are still issues to be resolved, the two sides are hopeful of tying up a deal in the next ten days. Swallow ended 3½p lighter at 286½p.

Speculative buying lifted **Wembley** 5p to 371½p. SFX Entertainment has confirmed it will probably make an offer of between 400p and 450p a share, but stopped short of making a formal bid.


Malcolm Paul, finance director, left, and Chris Cole, the managing director, saw WSP shares close up 3p at 186½p

A change in recommendation and the shares going ex-dividend left **Waste Recycling** 19½p lower at 516½p. Merrill Lynch, the broker, has moved its intermediate recommenda*tion from "neutral" to "reduce".*

Tadpole Technology retreated 1½p to 14½p after an attempt to dampen down enthusiasm for its Java mobile computing product. The Bristol Water company has been conducting trial runs of Java and last week's presentation was said to have been upbeat.

Servisair receded 5½p to 206½p upset by reports that *Amey had no intention of raising* its 200p bid for the company. Amey, steady at 590p, was quick to pick up on the story saying no one from the company had indicated one way, or the other, whether it will be raising the offer.

Stagecoach firmed 6½p to 246p as Robert Speirs, a non-executive director, bought *15,000 shares at 240p.* ***AAF Industries***, controlled by Forward Corporation with 57 per cent of the shares, held steady at 64½p after Andrew Walker, a director, sold his entire holding of 15,000 shares at 65p.

Baron Paul Buysse, chief executive of **Vickers**, has acquired a further 13,334 shares at 147½p in the defence group after results last week. It takes his stake to 50,000 shares. The price was ½p lighter at 146½p.

WSP Group, up 3p to 186½p, is hitting the acqusition trail both at home and abroad. The news came as the business support group pushed pre-tax profits up from £3.25 million to £4.68 million last year.

The battle for control of the boardroom left **Widney**, 3p lower at 37½p. The company has been forced to call an extraordinary meeting by Barry *Jordan and Stephen Roberts*, who between them account for 12.85 per cent of the shares.

City Centre Restaurants finished 2½p cheaper at 56p after *abandoning plans* to sell 46 Deep Pan Pizza restaurants to Queensborough Holdings.

The smell of burnt fingers wafted round the market as the price of **Corporate Services** collapsed 53p to 113p on the back of a profits warning. Punters were piling into the shares on Friday hoping for some good news yesterday.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** The London bond market closed lower on the day but was still able to outperform its European counterparts with the help of better than expected industrial output and producer price numbers.

Overall trading conditions proved lacklustre ahead of the Budget. In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt finished 23p lower at £116.37 as 19,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 shed 25p to £145.55, while in shorts Treasury 7 per cent 2002 eased 2p to £106.40.

□ **NEW YORK:** US shares were mixed as market bulls cooled their heels after Friday's record-breaking run. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 27.62 points to 9,708.46.

TASTY MORSELS

FTSE 350 food producers index
FTSE All-share index (rebased)
4,600 4,400 4,200 4,000 3,800 3,600 3,400 3,200 3,000
Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar
Source: Datastream

UNILEVER'S generosity in handing back £5 billion to shareholders has had only a marginal impact on the food manufacturing sector.

But Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, is happy to move its recommendation for the Anglo-Dutch food group from "sell" to "hold" and has upgraded the sector generally from "underweight" to "neutral".

Graham Jones at DKB says: "The results season, so far, has produced few surprises, but the sector continues to underperform relative to the rest of the market".

But a clearer picture of the industry has emerged and there are stocks that DKB is keen to recommend to clients. Top of its shopping list is Cadbury Schweppes, 1p lighter at 960½p, having briefly moved above the £10 level.

Also on its list are Perkins, ½p cheaper at 106½p, PIC International, 1½p dearer at 67½p, Terranova, ½p firmer at 75½p, and Robert Wiseman, steady at 195p.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones ... 9708.46 (−27.62)
S&P Composite ... 1274.74 (−0.73)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average ... 14779.05 (−114.95)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng ... 10263.99 (+22.87)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index ... 525.52 (−4.03)

Sydney:
AO ... 2929.6 (+27.1)

Frankfurt:
DAX ... 4788.69 (−50.40)

Singapore:
Straits ... 1451.84 (+2.18)

Brussels:
BEL20 ... 3322.45 (−23.72)

Paris:
CAC-40 ... 4175.97 (−13.59)

Zurich:
SMI Index ... 7185.9 (−27.4)

London:

FT 30	3770.9 (+3.1)
FTSE 100	6208.8 (+3.3)
FTSE 250	5359.2 (+10.8)
FTSE 350	2946.6 (+2.3)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2835.74 (−22.72)
FTSE All-Share	2848.79 (+2.75)
FTSE Non Financials	2890.03 (+5.71)
FTSE Fixed Interest	153.85 (−0.42)
FTSE Govt Secs	113.03 (−0.15)
Bargains	67662
SEAQ Volume	944.1m
US$	1.6083 (−0.0015)
Euro	0.6767 (+0.0023)
£:SDR	1.1745
Exchange Index	102.1 (−0.3)

Bank of England official close (4pm)
RPI ... 163.4 Jan (2.4%) Jan 1987 = 100
RPIX ... 161.8 Jan (2.6%) Jan 1987 = 100

RECENT ISSUES

Close Bros Dev VCT	100		...
Enhanced Zero Trust	100½		...
Gander Properties	7½	+	¼
Jupiter En Zero Dv Pf	107½	−	¾
Jupiter Enhanced Inc	99		...
Luminar Warrants	280	−	10
NBA Quantum	110		...
South African Breweries	485	+	20
Sports Internet	88½		...
Synstar	132	−	2

RIGHTS ISSUES

Brancote n/p (10)	1¼	−	¼
Oxford Biomedica n/p (15)	6	+	3
Peptide Thera n/p (78)	17½	+	1

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Staffware	242½	+ 50	+ 25.9
FS Dev	14½	+ 2½	+ 20.8
Tops Ests	117½	+ 20	+ 20.5
Lon Forfaitng	51½	+ 8½	+ 19.7
Albright & Wil	129½	+ 19½	+ 17.7
Lon & Assoc.	29¼	+ 4¼	+ 17.0
Mayborn	40½	+ 5½	+ 15.7
Howard Hldgs	68½	+ 9	+ 15.1
SEC Group	65	+ 8	+ 14.0
SOCO Intl	33	+ 4	+ 13.7
Try Group	21	+ 2½	+ 13.5
Estates Agency	500	+ 50	+ 11.1
JWE Telecom	155	+ 15	+ 10.7
Minorplanet	96½	+ 9	+ 10.2
Cairn Energy	116	+ 10½	+ 9.9
Hickson	40	+ 3½	+ 9.5
Cussins	93½	+ 8	+ 9.3
Atlantic Telecom	268½	+ 21½	+ 8.7
Booth Inds	37½	+ 3	+ 8.6
Goode Durrant	431½	+ 34	+ 8.5
Inn Business	63½	+ 5	+ 8.5
Xenova	91	+ 7	+ 8.3
HW Group	119	+ 9	+ 8.1
Coats Viyella	40	+ 3	+ 8.1

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Corp Services	113	− 53	− 31.9
Relyon	340	− 40	− 10.5
Petra Diamonds	71½	− 8	− 10.0
James R Knowles	32½	− 3	− 8.4
Queensborough	17	− 1½	− 8.1
Swan Hill	58½	− 5	− 7.8
Radamec	36½	− 3	− 7.5
Polymasc Pharms	38½	− 3	− 7.2
MWB Group	66½	− 5	− 6.9
Fisher (James)	57½	− 4	− 6.5

TEMPUS

Get away from it all

THOMSON TRAVEL provides exactly the right illustration for those who believe it is wrong to buy shares for the perks offered. Thomson was the share issue to catch private investor *imagination last year* and it did so with more than a little help from the package of vacation discounts for shareholders. But you need to be a dedicted Thomson holidaymaker to feel flush on the back of this investment.

Before yesterday's results Thomson shares had managed to crawl back up above the 170p float price, having fallen to 106p in October. But the poor profits figures sent the stock back down 6 per cent, to 161p.

Hopes held at the time of flotation that Thomson was well placed to exploit growing demand for leisure pursuits are proving to be misplaced. In fact, Thomson is looking more and more like a mature business in maturing markets. With a near-30 per cent share of the UK package holiday market there is little room to increase market share, none by dint of takeover. And while the market may be growing, travel is a super competitive, low margin business.

Airtours, number two in the market behind Thomson, has a long-running policy of geographical diversification in Scandinavia and Canada. But even with its seven recent acquisitions in niche markets, Thomson is still heavily reliant on UK customers for revenue.

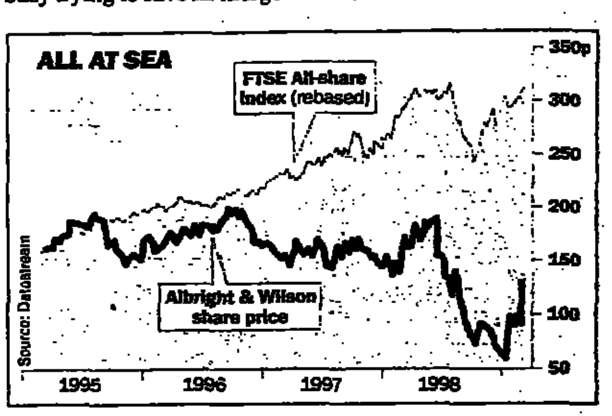
It is not surprising that news of a 2 per cent drop in Thomson's bookings out of the UK for this summer hit the share price so hard. The group is also cautious about the outlook. Unless the holiday discounts really make sense, investors should sell while the market price for the shares is still adjacent to the float price.

Albright & Wilson

THE City seems to believe that the fate of Albright & Wilson is all but decided. On day one of its bid, Albemarle of the US was able to pick up 18.6 per cent of the British chemicals group, and Albright's share price closed a halfpenny below the offer price.

But it would be a mistake to assume this is a done deal. Albermarle is not alone in being interested in Albright. And investors may care to remember that the take-out price on Allied Colloids — another unloved chemicals company — *was bid up from £1 billion to* £1.4 billion before it was taken over by Ciba Specialty last year. Admittedly, Ciba is struggling to make that deal pay and its lessons may be learnt by rivals seeking the hand of Albright. But Albright has its attractions to Rhodia, of France; Witco, of the US; and other buyers. Solutia, a US firm, is also thought to be selling off divisions and many think Albright and Solutia's phosphates arm would make a good marriage. That combination would produce clear synergies and increased pricing power.

Rhodia, and Rhône-Poulenc, its parent, may be too busy trying to save its merger with Hoechst. And a third party would need deep pockets if it were to take on both Albright and Solutia at the same time. Nonetheless, there is enough to suggest this bid has a way to run. Phillips & Drew, Albright's biggest shareholder, is sitting on *its hands to see what turns* up. Smaller investors should follow suit.



CMG

CMG is one of the best computer software companies, as this column has already noted on more than one occasion. Yesterday's annual results provided further proof that this is a business to be proud of. There are few shares which bring exposure to strong management skills and growing markets. CMG is one that does.

Yet for investors there is the problem of price. The attractions of CMG, and rivals such as Admiral and Logica, are well known to the stock market. CMG shares are chased hard too, and at £18.12, up 59p or 3.4 per cent yesterday, now trade on nearly 60 times 1998 earnings per share and 48 times estimated current year earnings.

Despite the clear strengths of this business the temptation to profit-take will be hard to resist. Especially if you have been in for some time, and especially because CMG shares may weaken with the sector as the millennium draws nearer. This weakening may not be justified for CMG on fundamental grounds but the sector trends are not easy to buck.

Holders should keep a weighting, however. And any fall in the share price should be seen by non-holders as an opportunity to buy.

IMI

IMI is a Midlands engineer that tends to call a spade a spade. The market has punished it for this plainspeaking, assuming the valves and fittings it makes are terribly low-tech because they are grouped under prosaic names such as "Building Products". The shares stood at 532p last May. Now they are 252p.

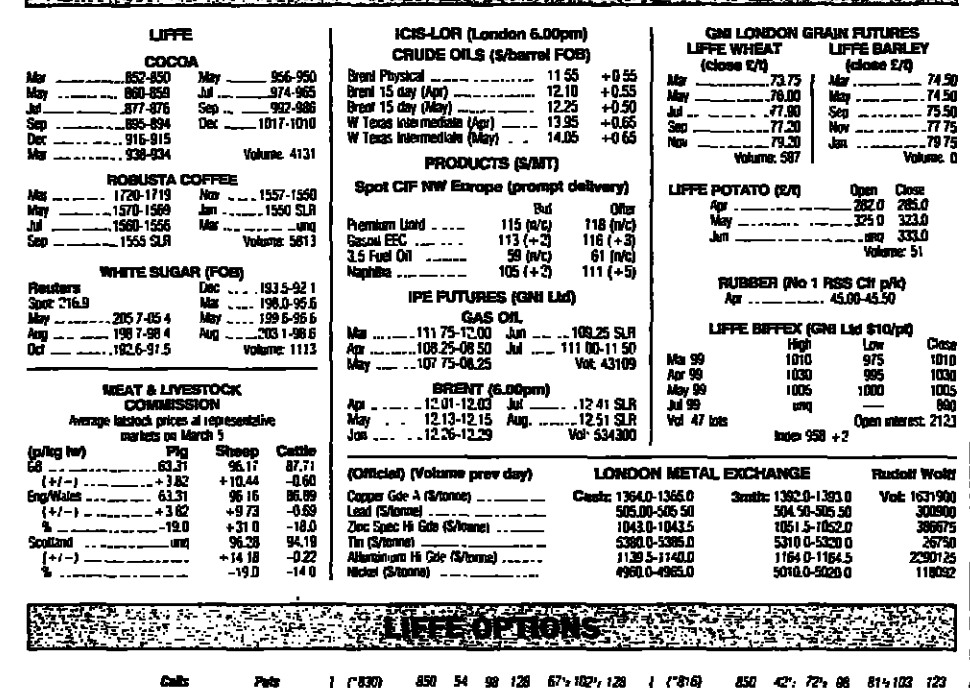
IMI has, however, twigged that if you call a spade a man-to-soil interface system, the market will like you more. Hence, it is rebranding itself as a "controls" group — shades of Siebe, here — renaming divisions and generally presenting itself as more modern and "value-added".

The exercise is not entirely cynical and cosmetic: IMI has changed. It has hacked away at its dependence on commodity-type products and its drinks dispenser business is the world leader. Its meaty cash flow means it is able to fund growth through acquisition, although where it will buy is unclear.

One cloud that has hung over IMI is an ill-fated diversification into computer software. The managers responsible are still there. While solid, they lack the presentational sparkle of, say, Roberto Quarta at BBA. This may hamper the rebranding.

Commerzbank, the securities house, believes IMI is undervalued. Although there are still question marks over future growth, Commerzbank is probably right.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE



COMMODITIES

LIFFE — COCOA

Mar	852-850	May	956-950
May	860-859	Jul	974-965
Jul	877-876	Sep	992-986
Sep	895-894	Dec	1017-1010
Dec	916-915		
Mar	938-934		Volume: 4131

ROBUSTA COFFEE

Mar	1720-1719	Nov	1557-1550
May	1570-1569	Jan	1550 SLR
Jul	1560-1556	Mar	unq
Sep	1555 SLR		Volume: 5813

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	193.5-92.1
Spot: 216.9		Mar	198.0-95.6
May	205.7-05.4	May	199.6-95.6
Aug	198.7-98.4	Aug	203.1-98.6
Oct	192.6-91.5		Volume: 1113

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 5

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	63.31	96.17	87.71
(+/−)	+3.82	+10.44	−0.60
Eng/Wales	63.31	96.16	86.89
(+/−)	+3.82	+9.73	−0.69
%	−19.0	+31.0	−18.0
Scotland	unq	96.28	94.19
(+/−)		+14.18	−0.22
%		−19.0	−14.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm) — CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	11.55	+0.55
Brent 15 day (Apr)	12.10	+0.55
Brent 15 day (May)	12.25	+0.50
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	13.95	+0.65
W Texas Intermediate (May)	14.05	+0.65

PRODUCTS ($/MT) — Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	115 (n/c)	118 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	113 (+2)	116 (+3)
3.5 Fuel Oil	59 (n/c)	61 (n/c)
Naphtha	105 (+3)	111 (+5)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd) — GAS OIL

Mar	111.75-12.00	Jun	109.25 SLR
Apr	108.25-08.50	Jul	111.00-11.50
May	107.75-08.25		Vol: 43109

BRENT (6.00pm)

Apr	12.01-12.03	Jul	12.41 SLR
May	12.13-12.15	Aug.	12.51 SLR
Jun	12.26-12.29		Vol: 534300

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	73.75	Mar	74.50
May	76.00	May	74.50
Jul	77.90	Sep	75.50
Sep	77.20	Nov	77.75
Nov	79.20	Jan	79.75
Volume: 587		Volume: 0	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	282.0	285.0
May	325.0	323.0
Jun	unq	333.0
		Volume: 51

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Apr ... 45.00-45.50

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 99	1010	975	1010
Apr 99	1030	995	1030
May 99	1005	1000	1005
Jul 99	unq	—	890
Vol: 47 lots			Open interest: 2123

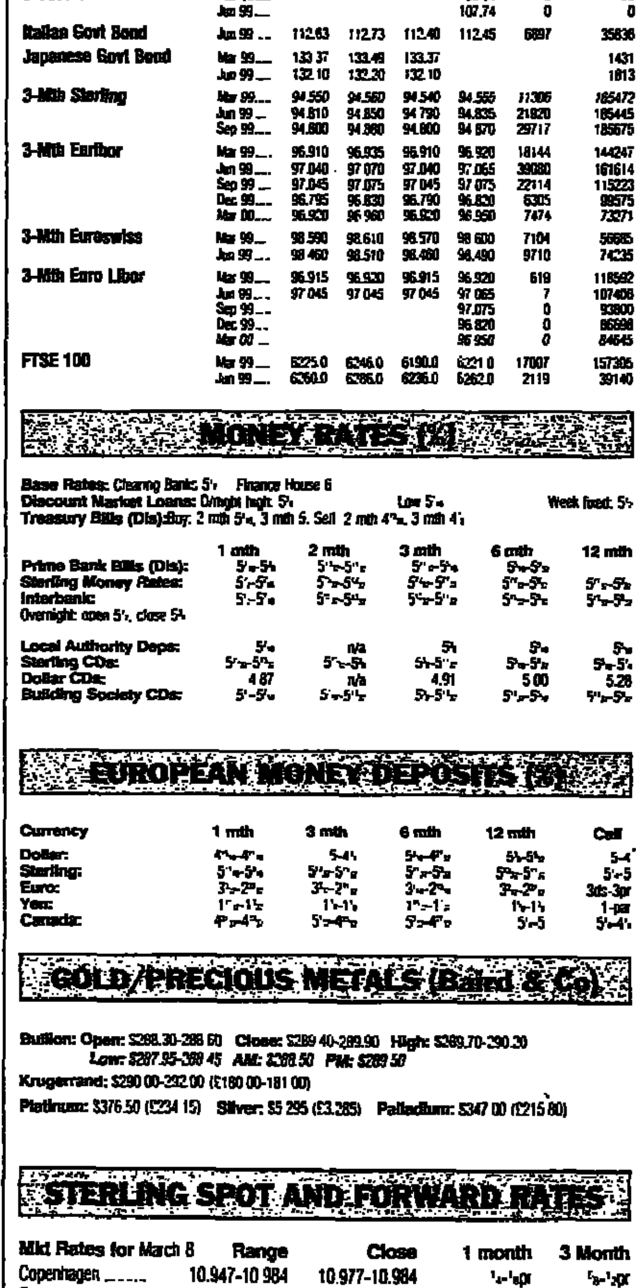
Index 958 +2

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (Official) (Volume prev day) — Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1364.0-1365.0	1392.0-1393.0	1631900
Lead ($/tonne)	505.00-505.50	504.50-505.50	300900
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1043.0-1043.5	1051.5-1052.0	386675
Tin ($/tonne)	5380.0-5385.0	5310.0-5320.0	26750
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1139.5-1140.0	1164.0-1164.5	2290125
Nickel ($/tonne)	4960.0-4965.0	5010.0-5020.0	118092

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
ASDA	140	13½	20½	24½	5½	10½	15½
(*147½)	160	5	11½	16½	17	20½	27
Abbey Nat	1250	74½	128½	161	64	102½	130½
(*1253)	1300	53	105½	140	92½	129	159
Alld Dom	460	46½	63	78	13½	33	43½
(*491)	500	24½	43½	59½	31	54	63½
Allied Zurich	900	69	96	124½	43	75½	88
(*830)	850	54	98	128	67½	102½	128
Thames W	1005	60½	—	—	21½	—	—
(*1036½)	1059	31½	—	—	46	—	—
Vodafone	1100	82	135½	174½	55	99	125
(*1119)	1150	57½	112	150½	80½	125	150
Woolwich	390	22½	35	51	20½	30	42½
(*396½)	420	11	23	38½	39	47	59½
Zeneca	2400	169½	275	340½	87½	172	225½
(*2477½)	2500	118½	225	292½	139	219	275½
(*816)	850	42½	72½	98	81½	103	123
Rio Tinto	800	64½	87	109	41½	64½	80½
(*832)	850	39	62½	80½	69	90	100½
R-Royce	260	22½	33	40	16	24	29
(*269)	280	13	23½	31	27	34½	39½
Tesco	160	13½	19½	24	11	16½	20
(*163½)	180	5½	11½	16½	23½	28½	32½
Utd Biscuits	180	12	18½	23	14½	19½	22½
(*182½)	200	5½	11	16½	28½	32	35½
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]



LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Mar 99	115.90	116.00	115.73	115.74	785	9910
	Jun 99	116.55	116.75	116.25	116.37	20385	79084
5-Year Gilt	Mar 99				108.04	0	63
	Jun 99				107.74	0	0
Italian Govt Bond	Jun 99	112.63	112.73	112.40	112.45	6897	35836
Japanese Govt Bond	Mar 99	133.37	133.49	133.37			1431
	Jun 99	132.10	132.20	132.10			1813
3-Mth Sterling	Mar 99	94.550	94.560	94.540	94.555	11306	185472
	Jun 99	94.810	94.850	94.790	94.835	21820	185445
	Sep 99	94.800	94.880	94.800	94.870	29717	185675
3-Mth Euribor	Mar 99	96.910	96.935	96.910	96.920	18144	144247
	Jun 99	97.040	97.070	97.040	97.065	39080	161614
	Sep 99	97.045	97.075	97.045	97.075	22114	115223
	Dec 99	96.795	96.830	96.790	96.830	6305	99575
	Mar 00	96.920	96.960	96.920	96.950	7474	73271
3-Mth Euroswiss	Mar 99	98.590	98.610	98.570	98.600	7104	56685
	Jun 99	98.460	98.510	98.460	98.490	9710	74235
3-Mth Euro Libor	Mar 99	96.915	96.930	96.915	96.920	619	118592
	Jun 99	97.045	97.045	97.045	97.065	7	107406
	Sep 99				97.075	0	93800
	Dec 99				96.820	0	86698
	Mar 00				96.950	0	84645
FTSE 100	Mar 99	6225.0	6246.0	6190.0	6221.0	17007	157305
	Jun 99	6260.0	6286.0	6236.0	6262.0	2119	39140

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Bank: 5½ Finance House 6
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 5¼ Low 5⅛ Week fixed: 5½
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5⅛, 3 mth 5. Sell: 2 mth 4⅞, 3 mth 4¾

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5⅛-5¼	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	
Sterling Money Rates:	5⅞-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛
Interbank:	5⅞-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛

Overnight: open 5½, close 5¼

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	5⅛	n/a	5¼	5⅛	5⅛
Sterling CDs:	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5¼	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛
Dollar CDs:	4.87	n/a	4.91	5.00	5.28
Building Society CDs:	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar:	4⅞-4⅞	5-4⅞	5⅛-4⅞	5⅛-5⅛	5-4¾
Sterling:	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5¼-5
Euro:	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-2⅞	3ds-3pr
Yen:	1⅛-1⅛	1⅛-1⅛	1⅛-1⅛	1⅛-1⅛	1-par
Canada:	4⅞-4⅞	5⅛-4⅞	5⅛-4⅞	5¼-5	5¼-4¾

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open: $288.30-288.60 **Close:** $289.40-289.90 **High:** $289.70-290.20 *Low: $287.95-288.45 AM: $288.50 PM: $289.50*
Krugerrand: $290.00-292.00 (£180.00-181.00)
Platinum: $376.50 (£234.15) **Silver:** $5.295 (£3.285) **Palladium:** $347.00 (£215.80)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 8	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Copenhagen	10.947-10.984	10.977-10.984	¼-¼pr	⅝-½pr
Euro	1.4763-1.4783	1.4768-1.4777	0.13-0.16ds	0.37-0.40ds
Montreal	2.4322-2.4354	2.4334-2.4353	0.13-0.05pr	0.25-0.12pr
New York	1.6046-1.6077	1.6075-1.6077	0.09-0.07pr	0.168-0.137pr
Oslo	12.636-12.662	12.652-12.662	⅛-¼ds	½-⅝ds
Stockholm	13.180-13.221	13.204-13.221	⅜-¼pr	¾-⅝pr
Tokyo	195.42-196.07	195.93-196.07	1-⅞pr	2⅝-2½pr
Zurich	2.3446-2.3543	2.3524-2.3543	1-⅞pr	2½-2¼pr

Source: Extel Premium = pr Discount = ds

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5860-1.5885
Canada	1.5142-1.5152
Denmark	6.8250-6.8280
Euro	0.9179-0.9187
Hong Kong	7.7483-7.7488
Japan	121.78-121.79
Malaysia	3.7998-3.8002
Norway	7.8680-7.8740
Singapore	1.7270-1.7280
Sweden	8.2020-8.2120
Switzerland	1.4616-1.4626

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6050-1.6150
Australia dollar	2.5521-2.5570
Bahrain dinar	0.5975-0.6117
Brazil real*	3.1650-3.1750
Cyprus pound	0.8450-0.8638
Euro	1.4759-1.4780
Finland markka	8.6986-8.8377
Greece drachma	469.50-480.00
Hong Kong dollar	12.4662-12.4709
India rupee	67.35-68.95
Indonesia rupiah	14020.0-14620.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4840-0.4954
Malaysia ringgit	6.1135-6.1160
New Zealand dollar	3.0220-3.0286
Pakistan rupee	78.20 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7700-5.9074
Singapore dollar	2.7786-2.7810
S Africa rand (com)	9.8280-10.0468
U A E dirham	5.8225-5.9611

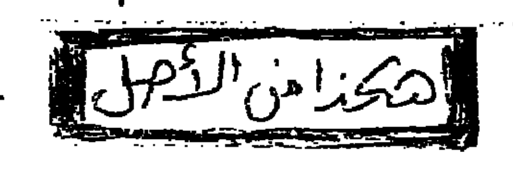
Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

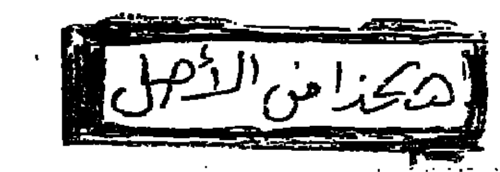
FTSE VOLUMES

3i	418	Land Secs	1,495
ASDA Gp	11,703	Legal & Gn	2,013
Abbey Ntl	3,027	Lloyds TSB	5,837
Allnce & Leic	1,819	LucasVarity	906
Allied Dom	1,311	Marks Spr	8,191
Allied Zrch	2,322	Nat Grid	4,195
Amvescap	872	Nat Power	6,022
AB Foods	361	NatWst Bk	4,762
Bk of Scot	3,183	Norwich Un	2,275
BAA	1,512	Orange	2,643
Barclays	2,967	P & O	1,309
Bass	2,248	Pearson	1,410
BG	8,388	PowerGen	699
Billiton	3,845	Prudential	3,799
BOC	295	Railtrack	1,344
Boots	2,030	Reckitt Col	2,508
BP Amoco	15,544	Reed Intl	4,127
BAe	6,087	Rentokil	14,452
BA	4,958	Reuters	4,530
Bri Am Tob	1,713	Rio Tinto	2,671
Brit Energy	1,682	Rolls Royce	16,013
BSkyB	2,828	Ryl & Sun	6,865
BT	10,676	Ryl Bk Scl	2,110
BTR Siebe	30,270	Safeway	4,297
CGU	2,595	Sainsbury	4,855
COLT Telecom	1,720	Schroders	78
Cable Wire	7,800	Scot & New	2,184
Cadbury	4,012	Scot Sthn Engy	2,115
Carlton Cms	1,832	Scot Power	3,498
Centrica	7,870	Securicor	941
Compass Gp	1,171	Svrn Trent	1,234
Daily Mail A	163	Shell Trans	23,238
Diageo	9,610	Smiths Ind	1,188
Dixons Grp	3,594	SmKl Bch	11,136
EMI	2,497	Stagecoach	1,002
Gallaher	1,035	Std Chartd	3,342
Gen Elec	8,537	Sun Life	226
GKN	997	TeleWest	1,816
Glaxo Well	4,951	Tesco	10,254
Granada	3,213	Thames W	1,173
GUS	4,596	Tomkins	4,529
GRE	5,527	Unilever	5,948
Hanson	2,455	Utd News	1,020
ICI	4,304	Utd Utilities	830
Imperial Tob	826	Vodafone	6,690
HSBC	4,623	WPP	3,928
Halifax	3,742	Whitbread	2,291
Hays	2,236	Williams	2,219
Kingfisher	3,883	Woolwich	6,095
Ladbroke	7,630	Zeneca	2,845

WALL STREET

	Mar 8 midday	Mar 5 close		Mar 8 midday	Mar 5 close		Mar 8 midday	Mar 5 close
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]







Brown should be thankful for a Keynesian bequest

The Chancellor owes a debt of gratitude to two men who reformed Tory economic policy

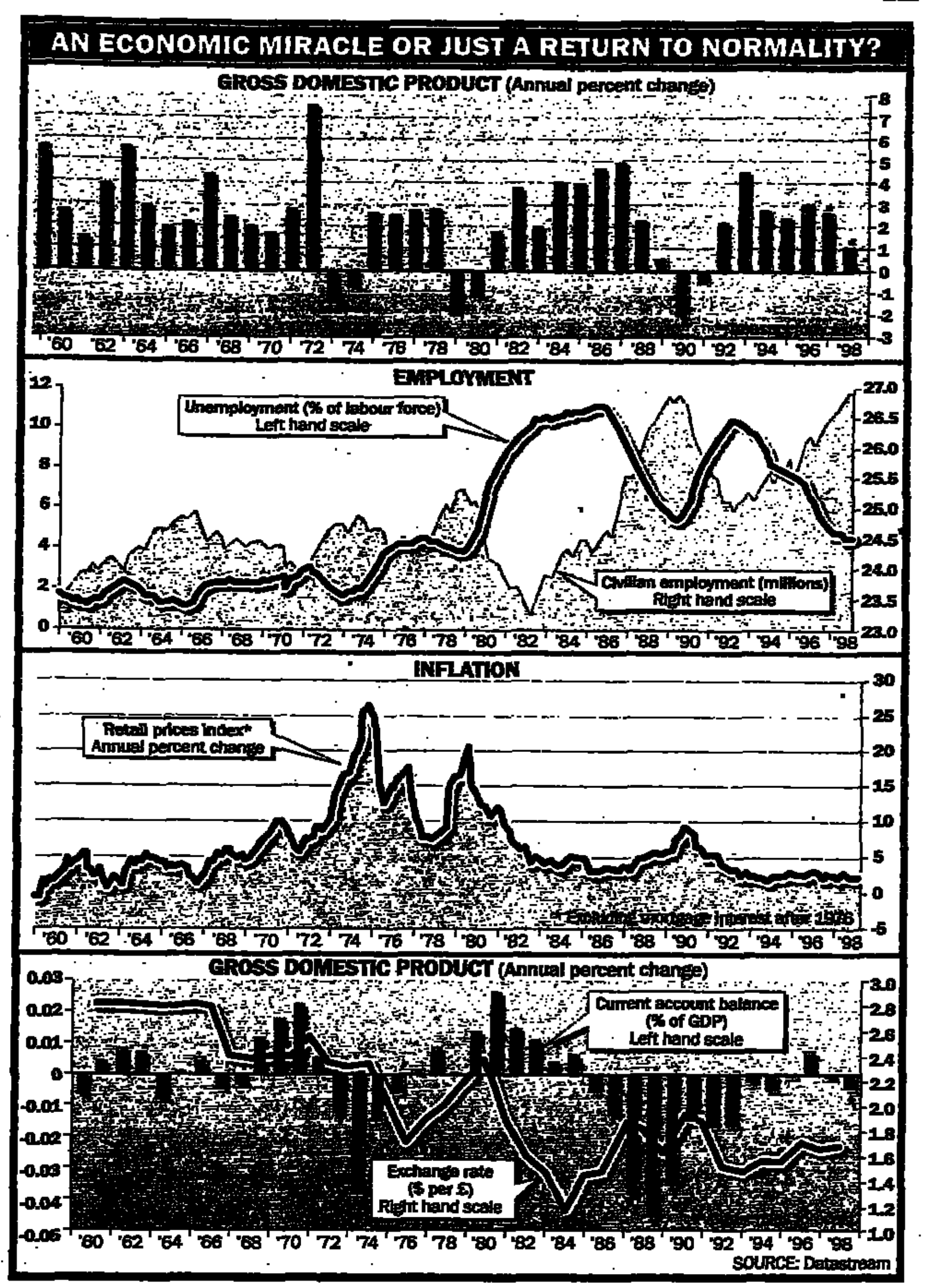
Since it is now too late to speculate about the contents of this afternoon's Budget — and since most people do not seem very interested anyway in what the Chancellor may or may not propose — this article will look at the Budget from another point of view. It seems that Gordon Brown has lived up to the highest aspiration proposed for the economics profession by Keynes. In a properly run economy, Keynes once said, economics should excite about as much public interest and political controversy as dentistry. This admirable definition of the intellectual value of economics raises two questions about the state of the British economy today.

Has Britain really attained the happy state of economic serenity in which arguments about interest rates, inflation and unemployment can be cleared off the newspaper front pages? And if Britain has reached the nirvana of low inflation, full employment and adequate economic growth, should the credit go to the Chancellor, the Bank of England or simply to good luck?

A few weeks ago, even to ask the first question would have been considered an insult to the memory of the thousands of businesses and jobs which were going to die in the great recession about to engulf Britain. However favourable the numbers published by the Treasury on tax revenues, deficits and public spending, the City, business community, media and, of course, the Conservative Party, seemed united in their conviction that Britain was on the brink of an economic collapse.

In the past few weeks, though, confidence has suddenly returned. Retailers, estate agents and car dealers report clear signs of reviving demand. Industrialists and even exporters are more optimistic than they have been since last summer. And the financial community has moved in record time though one of its manic depressive swings. Yesterday Merrill Lynch reported the biggestrise in optimism about the British economy since its monthly surveys of fund manager opinion began in July 1990.

What has happened to inspire this sudden turnround? I think the most plausible answer is the triumph of Keynesian dentistry over ideological economics. Businessmen, financiers and consumers have gradually realised that the British economy is now being managed in a professional, competent and thorbughly boring manner. The Treasury and the Bank of England are united in the objectives of maintaining low inflation, full employment and substantial economic growth. The fairly mechanistic principles of Keynesian economic dentistry show that, most of the time, it should be perfectly possible for an active policy of demand management to hit all these targets. As they begin to understand and believe this, British businessmen and consumers are starting to behave on the assumption that full employment, low inflation and adequate growth will, in fact, be maintained most of the time.



This is, I believe, the best way to explain the apparent miracle of economic stability in Britain. In fact, as shown in the charts above, the present stability is no miracle at all. British has merely returned to the conditions of full employment that were typical in the 1950s and 1960s. Until the mid-1970s it was taken for granted the world over that the primary economic responsibility of governments and central banks was to maintain full employment by managing demand. Because businessmen and consumers believed this, they invested and spent money on the assumption that full employment and steady growth would, in fact, be maintained. As a result of this, recessions were extremely unusual and were very brief when they did occur.

The main macroeconomic reason why Britain performed so much worse than most other economies during this Keynesian golden age was a persistent problem with the balance of payments. This trade problem was, in turn, largely attributable to the overvalued pound that Britain foolishly tried to "defend" at a time when Germany, France, Italy and Japan were all benefiting from their drastically devalued postwar exchange rates.

Perhaps the biggest and most encouraging difference between the present period and the postwar decades is that Britain no longer seems to find too much difficulty in maintaining a decent balance of payments. Another way of saying this is that Britain's relative costs, even at the present exchange rate, are extremely competitive, especially in comparison with those of Germany and our other European neighbours. This, suggests that the pound is, for all the squeals of industry, not nearly as overvalued as in the period of balance of payments crises up to 1976.

This short historical digression shows why Gordon Brown has been able to maintain his reputation as an "iron chancellor" while handing out dollops of money and tax cuts to sustain the Government's popularity and start to attain some of Labour's social objectives. As long as the economy is growing it is fairly easy to present a Budget that is simultaneously responsible, popular and rather boring, as Mr Brown will this afternoon. Provided the economy is not in recession, there is plenty of automatic revenue growth built into the British tax system. Without any need to change legislation, petrol and tobacco duties keep rising at rates far above inflation. And as long as real wages are rising, even at a modest rate, the revenue from a progressive income tax system automatically goes up much faster than national income. This creates a big and very profitable loophole for the Treasury in the system of indexation introduced by the Tories to stop income taxes rising automatically and surreptitiously through "bracket creep".

Taken together, all of the inbuilt sources of automatic "dynamism" in the tax system can allow any Chancellor to keep his promises of higher public spending and still have some capacity to spare for a few well-targeted tax cuts and training and enterprise programmes, as well as the odd popular lollipop in the social services. In other words, the alpha and omega of successful Budget policy is full employment and adequate economic growth. As long as recession is avoided, therefore, budgetary policy can be confined largely to technical issues of primary interest to finance directors and accountants. On issues such as inheritance tax or fiscal incentives for marriage there will still be legitimate political argument. But these arguments are — or should be — about justice, income distribution and social engineering. They are not about economic efficiency, still less about such macroeconomic issues as unemployment and inflation. Success or failure on the macroeconomic front depends far less on the political and social issues involved in the structure of the tax system than on the monetary decisions now made by the Bank — and these monetary decisions, in turn, largely determine the fiscal leeway available to the Chancellor to address his political and social aspirations.

This brings me back to the second question I asked at the start of this article. Who should get the credit for the good macroeconomic prospects that should allow Mr Brown to present a successful Budget this afternoon? The standard answer is either the Bank of England, for having successfully managed monetary policy, or Mr Brown himself, for having the foresight to hand over monetary management to the Bank. But one only has to look at the European Central Bank in Frankfurt to see that central bank independence does not, by itself, promote either stability or full employment.

The real authors of Britain's present economic prosperity — and of the present Chancellor's good fortune — were Kenneth Clarke and Norman Lamont. After Mr Brown made the Bank independent in 1997 it was fashionable to pour scorn on Mr Clarke for "politicising" monetary policy by failing to raise interest rates before the election. But given the abrupt strengthening of sterling and the subsequent slowdown of the British economy, it is certainly arguable that, in what was never more than a marginal disagreement, Mr Clarke was right and the overly hawkish Bank was wrong. More importantly, the last two Tory Chancellors were the men who threw out the monetarist philosophy at the Treasury after White Wednesday and dedicated macroeconomic policy to the achievement of full employment and the active management of demand. It was, ironcially, the Tories who brought Keynesian economics back to both the Treasury and the Bank of England. This intellectual revoltion was the true "golden legacy" they bequeathed to Gordon Brown.

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ECB bowls virtual sponsors an unplayable delivery

Opponents of the European Commission's plans to place a ban on tobacco advertising will be disappointed by the news that the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has given up on its sneaky attempt to circumvent the ban during this summer's cricket World Cup.

The ECB had planned what it calls "virtual advertisements". These are specially treated patches of grass on the cricket field or blank perimeter boards on to which different advertising logos could be projected for broadcast in different territories. The idea was that when the TV pictures were beamed back to India, for example; adverts for Wills cigarettes could be inserted, so giving the ECB revenue from the makers but avoiding the wrath of Frank Dobson and the EU.

The ECB has tested this technology on two occasions, once during the South Africa v England test match in Cape Town last March and during the triangular one-day tournament last August. Both trials went well and the ECB tells me that it is keen to use the technology again. However, on this occasion, it has been dropped for what the ECB calls "financial and logistical reasons".

The glasnost that has been sweeping through the ECB since Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth became chairman has not gone far enough for the organisation to go into any more detail. But I suspect that the amount Wills was willing to pay for the pleasure of this sponsorship was not enough for the ECB to sort out the technical issues, give a slice to the television broadcaster and still achieve a sensible profit.

It is not as if cricket is so flush with money that it can turn sponsors away. For the World Cup, the ECB has four backers each paying £2 million for the pleasure of using the World Cup logo and having a patch of grass to themselves at all the World Cup venues.

Two of the sponsors are long-running friends of the ECB — NatWest, which has its own one-day trophy, and Vodafone, which shares Lord MacLaurin as chairman and is already putting £15 million towards England's national team. Both are starting large promotional pushes linked to the cricket World Cup, and are pleased that there is not any important football this summer to get in the way of putting their message in front of key ABC1 males, who tend to make up the cricket-watching audience.

The two other sponsors are



relatively new. Pepsi has never sponsored cricket in the UK, and its sponsorship will be targeted at India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, where it has a big battle on with Coca-Cola. During the last cricket World Cup, which was in the sub-continent, Coke was the official sponsor and Pepsi ambushed the sponsorship, signing up leading cricketers such as Sachin Tendulkar and using the slogan "nothing official about it". The final sponsor is Emirates Airlines, which backed last year's triangular tournament and is pushing new routes to Australia.

Four is not many lead sponsors for an important competition and if the virtual sponsorship had worked it would have been a boon. And not only to the ECB. There will be quite a few sporting organisations who will be disappointed that the ECB is not going through with the experiment.

Take rugby union's five nations' championship. It has a lucrative sponsorship deal with Lloyds TSB, which got an early shock when England were nearly kicked out of the competition. However, it has also had problems with displaying the sponsors' name on the pitch. Last month's international between France and Ireland at Landsdowne Road, Dublin, will go down in history because the paint used to display the Lloyds TSB symbol in the centre of the pitch came off on the players.

This incident led the various rugby football unions to decide to restrict the sponsors' signage to just the "in goal" areas, which only tend to come on screen when tries are being scored. This of course cuts the amount of exposure Lloyds TSB will have this season.

Rugby would be a good target for virtual advertising, as would football, where it is hard to paint the pitch because the players' studs churn it up too much. Also in motor racing, cars can be projected with different liveries in different territories, again sidestepping the tobacco sponsorship rules. This would relieve the BAT team of the problem it has with the FIA, which runs Formula One and will not allow it to paint its cars in different colours, advertising different products for the same race.

The future of sponsorship is virtually upon us.

jason.nisse@the-times.co.uk

MICHAEL COOPER/ALLSPORT



Face painting: Ireland's Keith Wood with woad woes

BUSINESS LETTERS

Mis-selling of MPPI must be avoided

From the Deputy Director-General, Council of Mortgage Lenders

Sir, The editorial in today's *Times* (March 3) offers a very negative view of mortgage payment protection insurance and the partnership which is being forged between the Government, lenders and insurers. Ministers and officials have been very clear throughout that mis-selling must be avoided and that the quality of the product must improve. The CML and the Association of British Insurers have been fully in agreement with this.

Your editorial suggesting that making sure the policies are necessary (ie, targeted at the right people) and effective (will pay out on the main insurable risk) is a reasonable stance. Such concerns have been central to the work which has been undertaken and that will continue. The industry will obviously want to respond to the Insurance Ombudsman's concerns but, in the meantime, one clarification is required regarding the target. The aim is certainly to increase take up and to get all those who need MPPI to take it out. However, any agreed target will always be subject to two key provisos. First, that whether it can be achieved or not will be strongly influenced by circumstances in the economy and second, the target is an estimate of those who need it. Because mis-selling must not occur, the target itself must be treated as intended: simply a best estimate of need.

Yours faithfully,
PETER WILLIAMS,
Deputy Director-General,
Council of Mortgage Lenders,
3 Savile Row,
London,
WIX IAF.

Brands and supermarkets

From Mr Stephen Sidkin

Sir, Parallel importers point to the overcharging by brand owners (*The Times*, February 26). But the question must be asked as to who created the desirability of the branded product.

It is only by the investment made by brand owners in developing a market that parallel importers can exist. Under the smokescreen of benefiting consumers, parallel importers feed off the demand that has been created for them.

This assists supermarkets engaged in parallel importing as a way of maximising market share. This has been clear since the events leading up to the 1992 Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation into fine fragrances. But in view of the current competition investigation into supermarket pricing, there is a delicious taste of irony in the supermarkets' claim to advance consumers' interests by parallel importing.

At the same time it must be questioned as to how much the law needs to change. A parallel importer from the US into the UK may be able to take advantage of the Trade Marks Act 1994. This permits a third party to use a registered trade mark so as to identify goods as belonging to the trade mark owner. This is subject to the requirement that such use is in accordance with honest practices in industrial or commercial matters.

The purpose of this statutory provision is to allow comparative advertising. Whether it can be relied on by the parallel importer depends on his actions being in accordance with such practices and judicial interpretation.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SIDKIN,
Partner, Fox Williams,
City Gate House,
39-45 Finsbury Square,
London,
EC2A IUU.

City sonnets

From Ms Rosamund Smith

Sir, Why are City businesses making an increasing use of poetry? The article "Sonnets in the City" (Business News, February 27) was refreshing in not trivialising the Poet in the City initiative and the role of the arts in the Square Mile. Corporate reading and writing of poetry is not the latest executive gimmick, a flash-in-the-pan human resources tool, or even just plain self-indulgence. John Mole, the City of London's first official poet, is creating a dialogue both inside and between City businesses and local schools. Poetry is the community broker to connect the City business that questions involvement because it does not recruit children from Tower Hamlets schools and the school that assumes City businesses will force its classrooms to be renamed after banks. Unsurprisingly, Nobel prizewinner Seamus Heaney puts it best: poetry is "like the writing in the sand in the face of which accusers and accused are left speechless and renewed".

Yours faithfully,
ROSAMUND SMITH,
Chair, Poet in the City,
Bates, Wells and
Braithwaite Solicitors,
Cheapside House,
138 Cheapside,
London, EC2V 6BV.

Loyal toast

CONSTERNATION at the Mansion House at a lunch yesterday for the King of Swaziland, in town on an official visit. All was going well until the toasts. No problem with the Lord Mayor, Lord Levene of Portsoken. Then the toast master cried: "Raise your glasses for Mswati III of Swaziland."

There was suddenly the most awful cacophany of shouts and protests in Siswati, the Swazi language, from the King's retinue. Everyone looked appalled. Some terrible breach of protocol, perhaps?

It seems that it is the Swazi custom that the King never rises except to a chorus of praise. The noise was merely his own people carrying out their ceremonial duties. "The King looked completely unperturbed," says my source. "He's obviously quite used to it."



King Mswati III: only rises to a chorus of praise

"IT MAY be right to sell bonds," begins the latest research note from Capel-Cure Sharp, "but then again it may not." There follows lots of terribly impressive stuff about US monetary policy, interest rates and French and German inflation. But I rather think the first sentence says it all.



Taxing times

AS THE Chancellor prepares to deliver his Budget, I understand that relations are still strained with the Inland Revenue after last year's statement. This contained a couple of measures on taxation that came as a surprise to the tax experts, who might reasonably have hoped to be consulted beforehand.

As a result, morale is low; the Revenue, some say, is treated simply as a means of getting the tax in, and Gordon Brown and his Treasury men rarely listen to anything they provide in the way of advice. I suspect that the Revenue will be listening as intently as anyone to this afternoon's statement.

THEY are rather fonder of the Chancellor round at Deloitte & Touche. The accountant has landed the dream team for its Budget breakfast briefing tomorrow, comprising Gordon Brown, Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, and Barbara Roche, Financial Secretary to the Treasury.

The strong showing by the Government may be because Deloitte, as well as sending the briefing by satellite to its offices around the country, will also broadcast it live on the Web. The accountant last year snaffled the appropriate name for its specialist site, www.ukbudget.com. "Nobody else can use it now," a self-satisfied Deloitte staffer tells me.

Wet look

IF YOU are one of thousands of commuters horribly delayed this week by Thames Water's new reservoir on the North Circular, you have only yourself to blame for living in North London.

There, that should be good for a few days' hate mail. But I can offer a much quicker way of checking on the flood waters than listening to traffic reports. Mazware, a website designer that overlooks the scene, has put the view from its office window on its own website, *www.mazware.com*, updated every 20 seconds. My, it does look wet.

THIS will, I promise, be the first and last mention of That Woman, but as she arrives in this country, a reader has been rummaging in the special effects box of his personal computer and come across a typeface called MonicasHand. It is described by Microsoft as "a True Type", whatever that may be. "It looks a bit shaky to me," he says.

Log book

HE WAS the boss of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars when it was so clumsily auctioned to the Germans, so you would think Graham Morris has a racy tale to tell. Money, rivalry, betrayal ... plus a low-comedy subplot when patriotic owners try to buy the company with a few beads, a bottletop and a piece of string.

Now, taking up the role of non-executive chairman at Jensen, the luxury sportscar maker that is being revived with a new model, Morris tells me that he has indeed had approaches from publishing to tell his side of the story.

Alas, he would quite like to stay working in the motor trade so those expressions of interest have had to be rebuffed. For now at least.

MARTIN WALLER
city.diary@the-times.co.uk



"Of course it's not working, it's got biscuit crumbs all over it"

Numbers that count in the Budget

CURRENT POSITION | WHAT THE EXPERTS PREDICT | WHAT HAPPENS

ECONOMY

[redacted]		1999	2000
[redacted]	Treasury:	1-1.5	2.25-2.75
	City:	0.6	1.8
[redacted]	Treasury:	-	-
	City:	1.3	2.1
[redacted]	Treasury:	2.5	2.5
	City:	2.2	2.2
[redacted]	Treasury:	-	-
	City:	1.55	1.73
[redacted]	Treasury:	-7.5	-8.75
	City:	-5.8	-6.8
		1998-99	1999-2000
[redacted]	Treasury:	-4.3	2.0
	City:	-7	1.0

[redacted]

HOUSING

[redacted]

Mortgage interest relief at source (Miras) currently stands at 10 per cent on the first £30,000 of the loan.

Currently, there is no stamp duty on properties valued at less than £60,000. For properties worth between £60,000 and £250,000 the stamp duty is 1 per cent. For properties valued between £250,000 and £500,000 the duty is 2 per cent, and properties worth more than £500,000 have a duty of 3 per cent.

[redacted]

EXCISE DUTIES

[redacted]

Sparkling Wine (75cl bottle): £1.60. Alcopops (4-5%): 21p. Table Wine (75cl bottle): £1.12. Cider (1 ltr): 25.3p. Lager (4-5%): 26.8p. Bitter (3-4%): 25.5p. 4 large cans lager (500ml): 83p. Spirits (70cl bottle, 40% proof): £5.48. Cigarettes (pack of 20): £2.34. Hand Rolling Tobacco (25g): £2.19. Pipe Tobacco (25g): £1.26. Petrol (1ltr leaded): 71.8p. Petrol (1ltr unleaded): 65.8p. Diesel (1ltr): 66.6p.

[redacted]

PENSIONS

[redacted]

You can contribute up to 15 per cent of your salary to a company pension, with varying limits for personal pensions.

The elderly with savings of £16,000 plus must contribute to care.

[redacted]

SAVINGS

[redacted]

Personal equity plans (Peps) and Tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas) are to be replaced by Individual savings accounts (Isas) on April 6. Isas will have an investment limit of £7,000 in 1999-2000 and £5,000 thereafter.

[redacted]

INCOME TAX

[redacted]

£4,195 (under 65); £5,410 (65-74); £5,600 (over 75). These amounts represent the amount that can be earned before being liable to pay tax.

Allowances for those aged 65 and above are subject to an income limit of £16,200.

Lower rate: 20%; Basic Rate: 23%; Higher rate: 40%.

Lower rate (20%): up to £4,300; Basic rate (23%): £4,301 - £27,100; Higher rate (40%): excess over £27,100.

Non-residents are exempt from income tax on foreign income.

[redacted]

BUSINESS

[redacted]

Standard rate 31 per cent (to be reduced to 30 per cent April 1). Smaller companies rate 21 per cent (to be reduced to 20% April 1). Smaller companies limit: £300,000.

Will be abolished from April 6.

Temporary 40 per cent first year allowance for plant and machinery for small companies expires July 1.

Interest relief of 100 per cent if business owned for 2 years or more.

Relief as any other expenditure.

Nothing in place at present.

Relief of 25 per cent on qualifying capital expenditure.

Now stands at 1.8million.

[redacted]

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

[redacted]

Existing share schemes are complex and expensive to set up for smaller and unlisted companies. There are four million employee shareholders in the UK but only two thirds of companies employing fewer than 1,000 people have share schemes.

[redacted]

VAT AND INDIRECT TAXATION

[redacted]

Standard rate: 17.5%. Fuel rate: 5%. Registration limit £50,000.

4% on all policies except the 17.5% on travel insurance.

There is little anti-avoidance legislation at present.

[redacted]

NATIONAL INSURANCE

[redacted]

Class 1: Employees earning more than £64 per week pay 2 per cent on £63 and 10 per cent on the remainder up to £485.

Already announced: Employers' NI contributions threshold to be aligned with income tax at £4,335.

[redacted]

CAPITAL TAXES AND INHERITANCE TAX

[redacted]

Annual exemption £6,800. Tax paid at income tax rates.

Threshold £223,000. Annual exemption £3,000 per donor. Exemptions for lifetime gifts where donor survives seven years, known as Potentially exempt transfers or Pets.

[redacted]

GREEN TAXES

[redacted]

Parking provided by employers is tax-free. Fuel benefit is reduced where business mileage exceeds 18,000 miles per year.

Already announced: road fuel duties will be increased by at least 6 per cent each year. The duty on ordinary diesel will increase relative to unleaded petrol. The duty differential between ultra-low sulphur diesel and ordinary diesel to be increased. Higher rates of vehicle excise duty for heavy goods vehicles.

[redacted]

MISCELLANEOUS

[redacted]

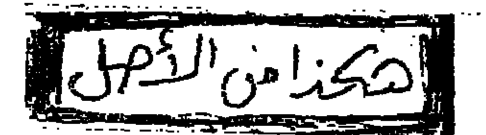
TAX AND THE FAMILY

[redacted]

£1,900 (under 65); £3,305 (65-74); £3,345 (over 75). Relief on married couple's allowance given at 15 per cent.

£11.45 a week rising in April to £14.40 for the first child. £9.30 a week for subsequent children, rising to £9.60.

[redacted]



Equities mark time

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1998/99 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
646	385	Allied Domecq	492	- 4	5.1	12.8
412½	279½	Bulmer (HP)	286	...	6.8	12.8
42½	7	Burn Stewart	11½	...	...	...
795	492	Diageo	734	+ 11	2.7	22.2
[illegible]	625	Glenmorangie A	707½	- 12½	2.6	19.2
325	225	Highland Dist	248	...	4.8	11.2
59½	19½	Merrydown W	25½	...	...	...
1085½	382½	SA Breweries†	475	+ 3½	3.8	14.4

BANKS

1998/99 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1618¾	883¾	ABN-AMRO	1209¾	- 18¾	3.2	14.9
1390	860	Abbey Natl	1253	+ 10	3.1	17.3
1032	585	Alliance & Leic	785½	- 12½	3.4	14.1
1282½	587½	Allied Irish	1075	+ 18	2.2	..
458¾	289¾	Aus New Z	414½	+ 6¾	4.9	..
6875	3237½	Bank America	4262½	- 16½	...	...
949	431	Bank Scotland	908	+ 9	1.4	22.8
1926	827	Barclays†	1789	- 1	3.2	20.0
1487½	882½	Bk of Ireland	1239	+ 14	[illegible]	[illegible]

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MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
ABI GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7980				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	146.05	155.63	- 0.10	
-do- NAV to Jan 19	140.30	140.39		
UK Equity Safeguard	117.49	125.66	- 0.41	2.02
-do- NAV to Mar 19	110.98	110.98		
US Eqy Safeguard	98.25	104.50	- 0.31	
Cash	953.88	958.65	...	6.25
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	443.71	472.03	- 3.26	1.80
UK Small Cos	93.19	99.66	- 0.76	0.50
FTSE 250 Index	109.48	117.10	- 0.44	1.89
Geared UK Inc	#25.252	#26.657	+ 0.45	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	87.52	90.46	+ 0.43	6.68
Monthly Inc	44.50	47.60†	- 0.30	7.98
International Funds				
American Gen	389.33	411.74	- 9.69	0.17
American Strat	177.29	189.48	+ 2.39	
JG US Index	#30.392	#32.019	- 0.10	4.50
European Gen	442.90	468.68	- 9.32	
European Strat	209.80	224.21	- 3.75	
Japan Gen	109.27	115.28	+ 1.98	
Asia Pacific	63.62	67.80	- 0.83	1.09
Pacific Strat	87.28	93.45	- 1.00	
Greater China	145.51	155.62	+ 2.70	
Latin America	60.06	64.14	- 2.32	
Int Growth	199.12	212.53	- 4.17	0.11
Balanced Exempt	186.32	191.81		2.18
Global Strategy	48.29	51.65	- 0.69	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MNRS				
01203 553 231				
AXA Equity & Law Unit Trust				
Balanced Acc	85.06	90.48	- 0.24	1.68
Balanced Inc	76.41	81.29	- 0.22	1.68
Brit Excell	136.00	144.70	- 0.20	2.20
Brit Fndmtls Acc	172.30	183.30	- 0.10	3.88
Brit Fndmtls Inc	106.80	113.60	- 0.10	3.88
Europe	572.60	609.10	- 2.90	0.30

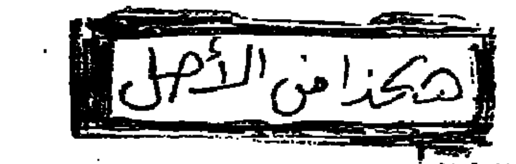
	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 822 100				
Can Gen Dist	328.80	346.40†	+ 3.70	0.98
-do- Income Dist	179.70	190.40	+300.00	2.59
-do- Accum	618.70	655.70	+ 6.80	2.58
Gilt & Fxd Int	47.55	49.97†	+ 0.19	4.20
Growth Units	394.50	423.00	+ 4.00	1.11
Bond	202.50	213.40†	+ 1.30	5.18
Intl Growth	276.30	293.40	+ 3.40	0.11
North American	431.70	458.30	+ 7.80	
Far East	170.30	182.10	+ 1.40	0.95
UK Smaller Cos	284.50	304.30	+ 1.20	1.11
European	140.10	148.70	+ 1.98	0.14
Japanese Growth	30.40	32.20	+ 0.08	
High Income	312.80	334.40	+ 3.40	2.63
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7456				
American & Gen	380.70	402.70	+ 8.00	
European Inc	154.00	163.50	+ 1.90	
Smaller Cos (4-1)	115.50	122.90†	+ 0.40	2.03
Growth	778.10	827.80†	+ 8.50	1.01
Income & Growth #	810.00	849.00†	+ 4.70	4.30
-do- Accum #	1010.90	1075.50	+ 7.90	4.30
Japan & Gen	52.33	55.31†	+ 0.45	
Hallmark Gwth	1776.00	1850.00	+23.00	0.88
-do- Accum	2260.00	2356.00	+30.00	0.86
Special Sits	179.10	190.60	+ 2.00	1.01
High Yield	2004.00	2067.00	+16.00	3.64
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	124.84	132.66		2.16
American Portfolio	208.03	220.23	+ 0.42	0.37
European Portfolio	221.06	235.17	- 0.96	0.27
High Income	58.77	62.09†		5.97
Japanese Portfolio	49.40	52.32†	+ 0.84	
Pacific Portfolio	108.48	114.50	+ 1.44	1.28
UK Equity	125.75	133.98		2.67
UK Equity & Bd	72.78	77.20		4.92

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
Income #	329.26	350.27	+ 8.28	3.17
UK Growth	124.56	132.50	+ 0.12	1.17
Ecology	127.69	135.28	+ 0.52	0.32
European	310.56	330.64	+ 0.55	0.18
Far Eastern	311.60	331.40	+ 1.38	..
UK Special Sits	75.96	81.20	+ 0.15	0.25
Fd of Inv Tsts	61.34	65.42	+ 0.24	
High Income #	71.01	75.74	+ 0.31	3.96
Financial Opps	80.28	85.63	+ 0.44	0.71
Growth & Income #	57.65	61.49	+ 0.02	2.11
Global Opps	57.75	61.58†	+ 0.57	0.71

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Recovery	58.70	62.10	+ 0.70	2.82
-do- Accum	105.60	112.80	+ 1.20	2.82
Smaller Cos	72.10	76.20†	+ 0.40	1.91
-do- Accum	157.90	167.00†	+ 0.80	1.91
Sth East Asia	230.80	244.10†	+ 2.50	1.94
-do- Accum	320.10	338.50†	+ 3.50	1.94
UK Equity #	84.20	89.00	+ 0.80	3.13
-do- Accum #	248.90	263.10	+ 2.40	3.13
UK Growth	1647.40	1742.10	+12.40	1.41
-do- Accum	1888.80	1997.30	+14.20	1.41
NGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 281 010 Enq: 01888 284 631				
European Growth	166.05	176.64	+ 1.93	0.22

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT				
0171 556 6800				
Bridge Income #	423.11	450.12	+ 3.89	4.41
Est Growth	148.42	157.89	...	0.50
Inc & Growth #	106.26	113.04	+ 1.23	2.88
Smaller Cos	122.75	130.58	+ 1.01	1.49
Ever Spec Sit Inc	59.02	62.79	+ 0.27	2.32
Ever Spec Sit Acc	63.64	67.70	+ 0.29	2.32
Pearl Growth	58.73	62.48	+ 0.34	1.41
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Dealing: 0870 6066408				
UK Cap	622.80	660.80†	+ 6.35	1.28
UK Inc/Gth #	659.90	700.20†	+ 6.56	3.08
UK Income #	447.40	473.10†	+ 3.75	4.15

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Bond	64.77	68.86	+ 0.76	2.85
Intl Equity Growth	118.17	125.36	+ 1.83	0.35
N Amer Growth	227.44	241.16†	+ 5.23	0.26
Special Sits Growth	41.48	44.12†	+ 0.36	1.17
UK Growth	680.32	723.74	+ 5.90	1.55
-do- Accum	978.40	1040.85	+ 8.62	1.55
NW UNIT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1563.30	1587.60†		2.90
Income #	1292.00	1375.60†		3.90

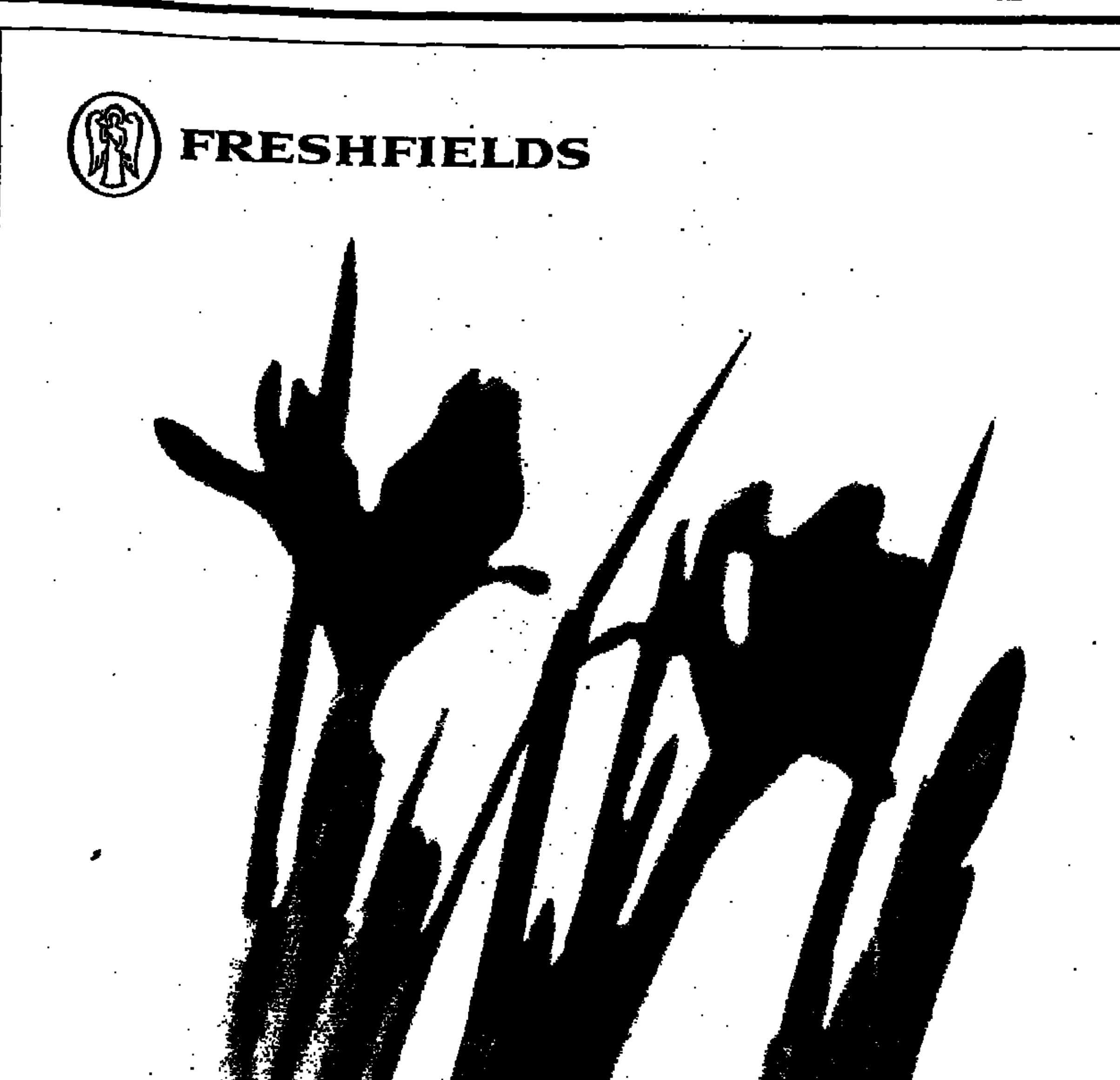


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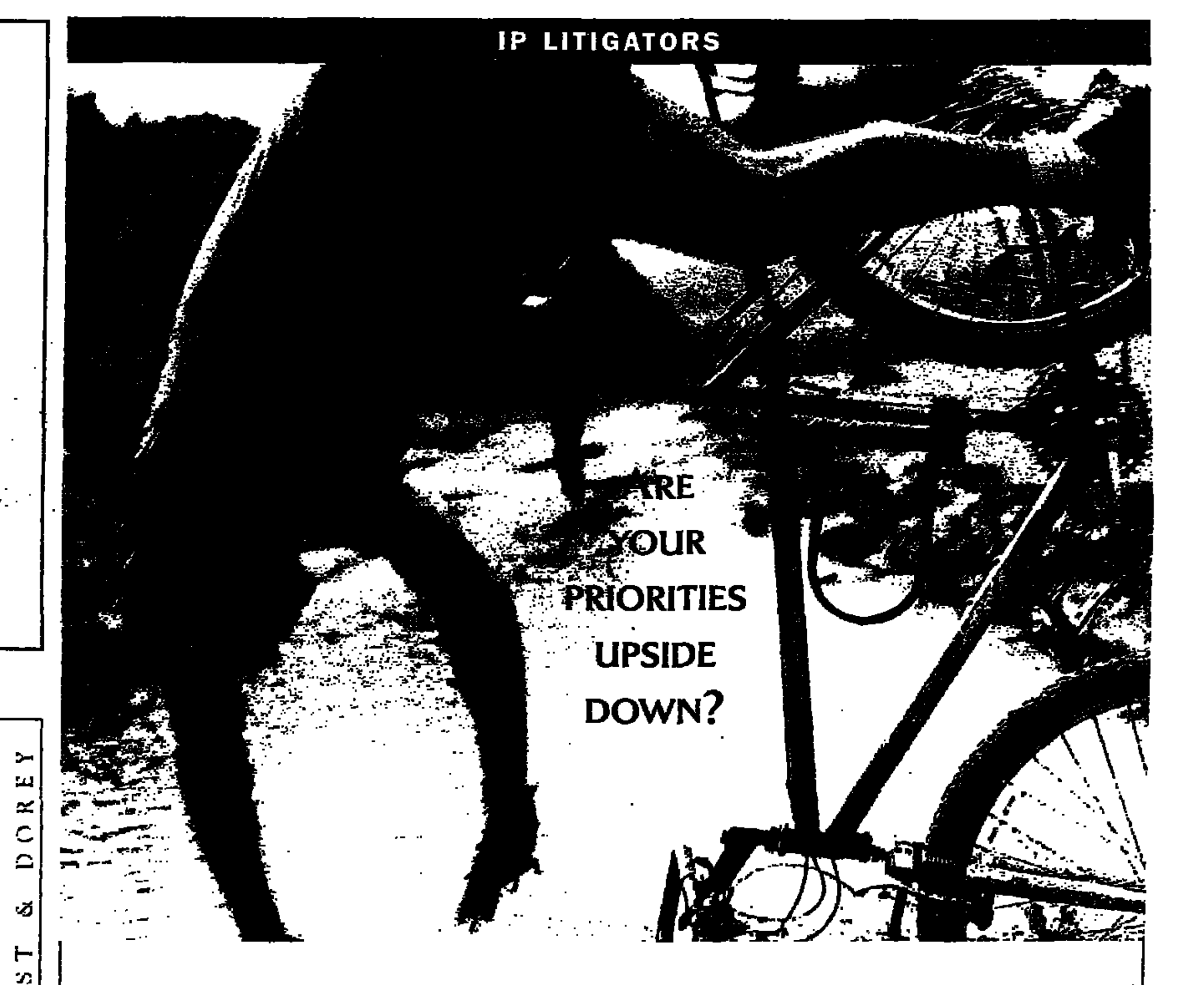
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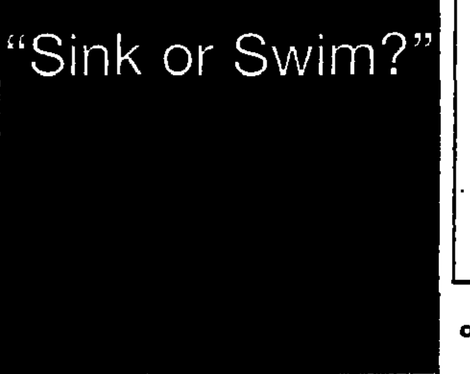
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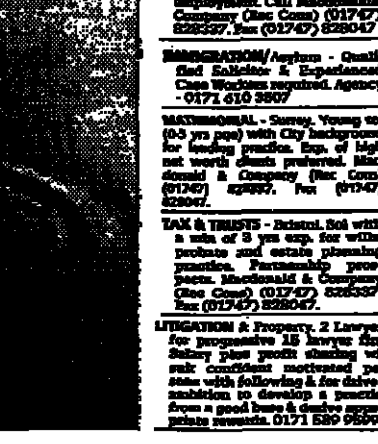
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LAW

Free speech: important questions of principle

The *Sunday Telegraph* has indicated that it may be returning to court for a ruling on whether Mr Justice Rix was correct to grant his recent injunction to Jack Straw. The Home Secretary obtained the injunction to stop publication of leaked extracts from the report of the inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence.

Although the injunction was lifted the next day to allow the media to report what the early editions had already put into the public domain, important points of principle need to be clarified by the courts. Whether or not judges subscribe to the view of Thomas Jefferson that we should prefer "newspapers without a government" to "government without newspapers", they should recognise the basic requirements of free speech in this context.

For many years newspaper and broadcasting organisations have objected to judges granting last-minute injunctions, which require the presses to be stopped or schedules to be altered, with little — if any — opportunity for the defendant to present an opposing argument, or for the judge to consider the difficult issues raised.

David Pannick QC

The concerns of the media have been heightened recently with the passage through Parliament of the Human Rights Act 1998, which will take effect next year. They expressed fears that the introduction into English law of a right to private life would exacerbate the granting of injunctions in urgent cases late into the evening — and so hinder freedom of expression.

The Home Secretary recognised the force of these concerns and recommended to Parliament a provision, which became Section 12 of the Act, to state principles applicable whenever a court is considering whether to grant a remedy that might affect freedom of expression. Section 12 is not yet in force. But it summarises the content of existing law.

Section 12(2) says that if the respondent is neither present nor represented, the court should not grant a remedy unless satisfied that the applicant has taken "all practicable steps to notify the respondent" or there are compelling reasons why the respondent should not be notified (for example, in a case involving national security). Because of the urgency, the Treasury Solicitor did take all practicable steps to notify *The Sunday Telegraph* but its legal adviser, Julia Braybrook, had only a brief opportunity to make representations to Mr Justice Rix. Where there is such extreme urgency that the notification cannot achieve its object of ensuring that the respondent has a proper opportunity to answer the claim, the court should be especially cautious about granting an injunction.

Section 12(3) adds that a remedy should not be granted so as to restrain publication before a full trial unless the court is satisfied that the applicant is likely to establish at such a trial that publication should not be allowed. The Home Secretary correctly told the House of Commons during the passage of the Human Rights Act that this embodies the principle stated by the European Court of Human Rights that prior restraints on publication "call for the most careful scrutiny" because "news is a perishable commodity". The less time the judge has to consider the matter, and the more limited the opportunity the respondent has to present the case against the granting of a remedy, the more unlikely it is that the judge can be satisfied as to what the result would be after a full trial, and so the more reluctant the judge should be to grant an emergency injunction.

Section 12(4) tells the court to have particular regard to the right to freedom of expression and, where the case concerns journalistic, literary or artistic material, to the extent to which "the material has, or is about to, become available to the public" and to the extent to which it is "in the public interest for the material to be published".

During the passage of the Human Rights Act, the Home Secretary told the House of Commons that "if a story will shortly be published anyway, for example in another country or on the Internet, that must affect the decision whether it is appropriate to restrain publication in this country". Since *The Sunday Telegraph* had already started to distribute the story in the first edition, and the full report would be published in four days in any event, an injunction was not appropriate, especially in relation to a matter of public interest.

Because last-minute injunctions against the press are, by definition, sought and granted with no proper time for reflection by lawyers and judges, it is of especial importance that the relevant general principles are well understood. In the light of these principles, the injunction against *The Sunday Telegraph* should not have been sought, and it should not have been granted.

● *The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.*



Frank Presland, the lawyer who manages Sir Elton John's business affairs: "There are huge swaths of business that are run by lawyers"

I don't have many clients who call me 'sweetie'

Elton John's lawyer is now his business manager. **Frances Gibb** on the expansion of legal roles

Last week Sir Elton John had cause to celebrate. He had won a landmark ruling from the Press Complaints Commission. It had ruled that the pop star's privacy had been invaded when long-lens photographs were taken and published of his guests — Victoria "Posh Spice" Adams and the footballer David Beckham — even though he was not in the pictures.

But for his lawyers at the City firm Eversheds, it was just another day in the complex dealings arising from handling his affairs.

The millionaire pop icon is clearly no ordinary client: his companies last year turned over more than $100 million (£61 million), more than the entire turnover of the London office of Eversheds.

What this means for his lawyer, Frank Presland, is a whole new role: he has become Sir Elton's business manager. So consuming is the job that Mr Presland, a commercial litigator and arbitrator by training who has worked for years in the entertainment world, in effect now does it full-time.

The lawyer as business manager is a new phenomenon in Britain, but in America it is commonplace. "There are," Mr Presland says, "huge swaths of business that are run by lawyers. It is not even noteworthy. They go back and forth from law firms to business . . . the Disney Corporation and Warner Bros are run by lawyers and it will become increasingly common here."

There have been high-profile examples: Robert (now Lord) Alexander, QC, caused a stir when he left the Bar at the height of his career ten years ago to chair NatWest. What is more unusual is to retain a foot in both camps: Mr Presland, who was chairman of Frere Colmeley before it merged last year with Eversheds, is still a senior partner and he does have other clients — for instance, the producers of *Riverdance* in their dispute with Michael Flatley. Mr Presland says: "Many lawyers see themselves as not only stuck in private practice but in one area of law. But to start out in law and to think you will do the same thing for 40 years is a depressing prospect. It's good to take time out and reinvent yourself."

Mr Presland was Sir Elton's personal lawyer for 17 years. He was then asked to set up a separate area of business to handle his personal finances. When Sir Elton's business manager left last spring after a dispute, Mr Presland was asked to take over. "I am his business manager but not in the entertainment sense," he explains. "I don't run his diary, promote his records or fix his recording schedules."

Nicholas Valner is the head of litigation and a leading arbitrator at Eversheds. But he has had close dealings over many years with the Beatles, Sting and has acted for Apple. "Apple is a vast organisation with a huge turnover and we have been involved in every aspect of its business as a corporate entity," he says. "I have attended board meetings, almost as in-house counsel."

Last week he was handling a trademark issue with Volkswagen, to do with the registering of "Beetle" and how that would affect the "Beatle" mark. Mr Valner also handled the case in which Sting's accountant was prosecuted. Mr Valner brought an action against Coutts and other financial bodies, recovering almost all the £8 million lost, and now also finds himself instructed by Mr Presland, his fellow partner, on litigation matters for Sir Elton. "Frank is now my client. I report to him at Elton John Management."

Eversheds, he says, was "thrilled" when Mr Presland was appointed to run Sir Elton's affairs. The firm receives a "very substantial" payment for his services and, of course, the spin-off of work that spreads out to various departments.

For Mr Presland, too, much of the work is acting like an in-house company lawyer. One minute he instructs on a privacy case or tax affairs; the next on a trademark problem or investments. "This morning," he adds, "I have spoken with our private capital partner on the establishment of a trust arrangement for Elton John."

The takeover by lawyer-managers is often prompted by a moving-out of the traditional-style managers who handled everything and took a percentage of the earnings — such as Brian Epstein with the Beatles and Colonel Tom Parker with Elvis Presley. "The affairs of these artists are much more complex, with rights all over the place and tax affairs that run through different countries," Mr Presland says.

Sport is another field witnessing the growth of the lawyer-manager, albeit to a lesser extent. "The window of earnings for a sportsman can be quite narrow," Mr Presland says. "But with an artist, copyright lasts for 70 years after the death of a composer. Elton John has released 34 albums under different labels; he is employed by three different companies for three different kinds of work (records, composing and performing). There is also film work and promotions."

Inevitably, the shift from lawyer to business manager can bring a closer relationship. "We share an interest in football and he often rings me on Saturday afternoon to get the scores," Mr Presland says.

Sir Elton, he says, does not like things to be dull. And business is handled differently. "You tend to go to him. And the way he is influences the way things are run. He has a phenomenal memory and pays huge attention to detail. He is exceptionally hard-working and talented, and that rubs off."

The offices also reflect the client: "We have real art works, not prints . . . and scented candles, that sort of thing," Mr Presland says. "And I don't have many clients who call me sweetie."

Legal DIARY

IF THE Government wants judges to be more in touch with society, perhaps it should think about lowering the collective age of the people it relies on to help with appointments. Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, has published a list of the names and occupations of the 48-member panel of lay interviewers with a say in elevating judges to circuit judge level. More than a quarter of those on the panel had already retired.

□ There is a healthy smattering of lawyers in *Management Today's* list of Britain's top 50 "most powerful women". Highest placed, unsurprisingly, is Cherie Booth, QC, who comes third. Among the other lawyers in the list are Wilde Sapte's Judith Mayhew (26), Lesley MacDonagh, Lovell White Durrant's managing partner (27), and Rachel Brandenburger (38), a Freshfields corporate partner.

□ The public will be able to have its say about the way courts will handle civil disputes from next month under the Woolf reforms. Tomorrow the Civil Justice Council, which is watching the reforms, will hold its first open meeting at the East Midlands Conference Centre in Nottingham. And who will be in the hot seat? Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, and architect of the reforms, and the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg.

□ Has Lord Justice Waller one of the worst jobs in the judiciary? He has just been made chairman of the Judicial Studies Board, the body charged with training judges. Top of the agenda is the biggest-ever training programme: to bring judges up to speed with the Human Rights Act 1998 in time for implementation in 2000. The Law Commission, meanwhile, wants to get ahead of the game. It is to look at whether the rules and practices governing bail applications should be amended when the Act comes into force.

□ The Law Society's attempts to get to grips with the profession's indemnity insurance crisis descended into near-farce last week. On Tuesday the society council rejected demands for law firms to be allowed to buy insurance on the open market when they voted to stick with the Solicitors' Indemnity Fund. But the controversial decision immediately came under question when a special general meeting was called by solicitors opposed to the fund. As a result, Michael Mathews, the society's President, has called a ballot and the result will be announced on May 12.

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QUEEN'S COUNSEL — Steuart & Francis

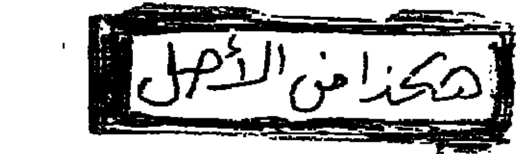
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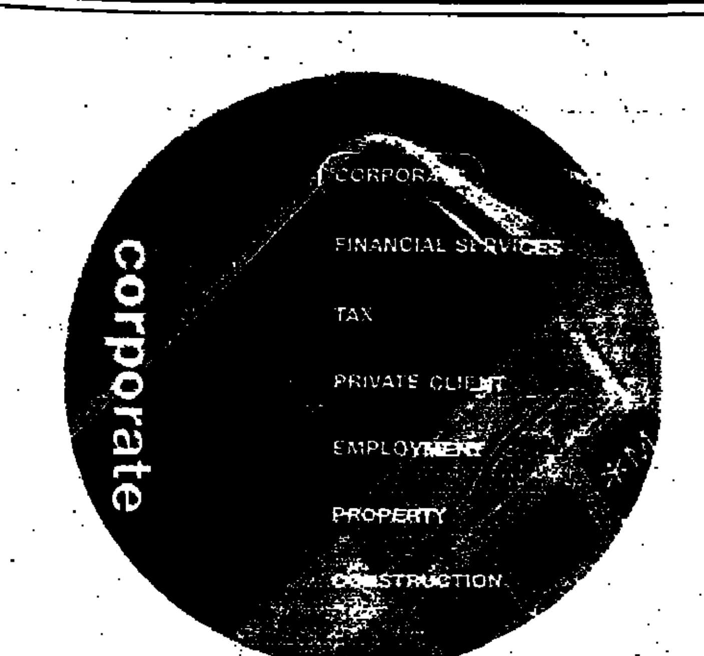








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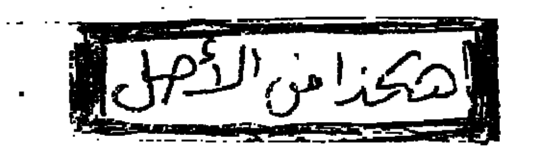
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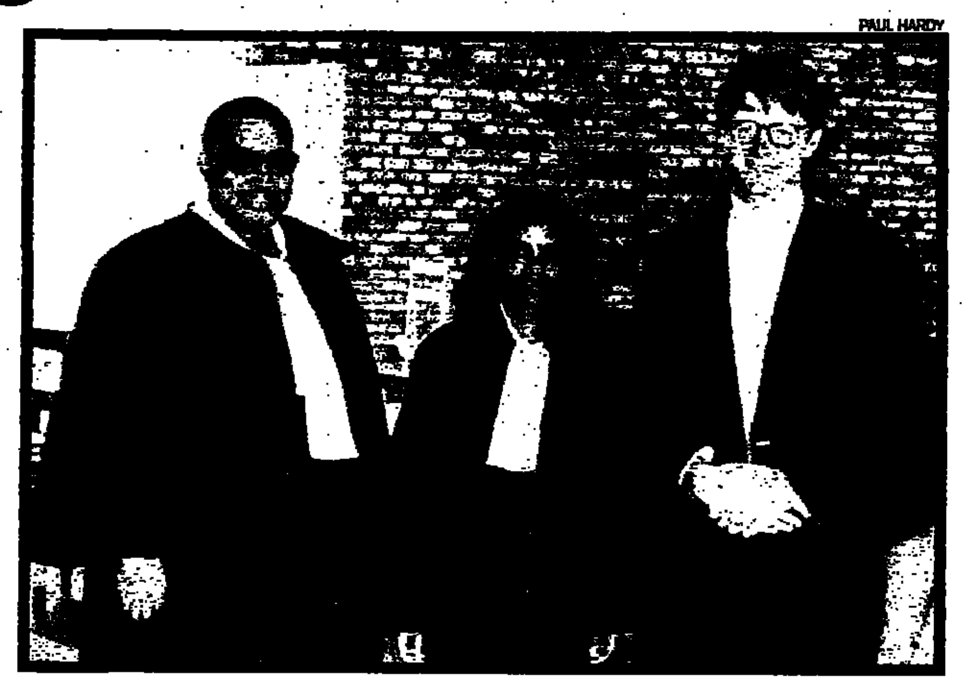
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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS



The man who chose to act for genocide defendants


PAUL HARDY

Court opponents: François Rwangampuhwe, left, and Agnès Nyirundabaruta with Paul Hardy

A small advertisement in The Lawyer lured an English barrister to defend the seemingly indefensible in Rwanda. **Paul Hardy** explains

The massacre of tourists in Uganda last week has brought back my own vivid memories of working as a barrister in Rwanda in the aftermath of the genocide there.

I am an English criminal barrister who was then based in London. But last year, after reading an International Bar Association article in *The Lawyer* appealing for help, I worked for four months for Avocats sans Frontières (AsF), a Belgian non-governmental organisation. AsF sends French-speaking lawyers into Rwanda to represent defendants and civil parties (victims and relatives of victims who can claim civil damages) in the genocide trials. Most of its lawyers are recruited from West African countries or Belgium.

I was the first common law-trained lawyer to have worked in these trials. Although Rwanda created a new Bar in 1997, it contains only 50 or so lawyers, many of whom are understandably unwilling to represent defendants. So there is an urgent need for this form of humanitarian assistance.

The genocide began on April 6, 1994, at 8.30pm, when the private jet belonging to Juvénal Habyarimana, the President of the Republic of Rwanda, was shot down by a land-to-air missile as it prepared to land in Kigali. All passengers and crew were killed.

The genocide attempt started within hours of the crash and lasted a hundred days. It is estimated that between 600,000 and 900,000 Rwandans lost their lives, most of them members of the Tutsi minority (who constituted about 10 per cent of the eight million population).

In August 1994, the Government announced that it would reimpose the rule of law by bringing to justice the perpetrators. Large sections of the population were arrested, sometimes indiscriminately. But many with a high level of responsibility for the genocide have escaped justice and are still in exile in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo. About 130,000 men, women and children, all presumed innocent by law, were being held in overcrowded prisons awaiting trial in Rwanda. A new judicial system needed to be established urgently.

This was no small task. The legal profession was severely damaged as a result of the genocide — lawyers and judges were reduced in number from 900 to about 200. Many who survived wanted little more to do with the profession.

The first trials began in December 1996. If you take into account the progress of the trials and mortality rate, it is estimated that a prisoner has a one-in-twenty chance of being tried. Each trial is tried by three judges or lay magistrates who have each received four months of training.

Rwandan criminal justice is largely based on the inquisitorial procedure, under which judges question witnesses and defendants and find the facts. Their role and integrity is therefore pivotal to an effective and fair system of justice. Many are Tutsi, and many may feel under pressure to convict. Theirs is the hardest role within the justice system: quite simply, the system relies on their good faith.

There were about 15 AsF lawyers living in a house in Kigali. We received briefs on the "cab-rank" principle and would expect to be in court anywhere in the country three or four days a week.

[/3 DROP +2]In my own experience, which was typical, I did not represent a defendant who had not been charged with genocide and crimes against humanity. But accusations varied widely. I represented some alleged to have planned the genocide of a district, others who appeared to have killed with extraordinary zeal, others who were coerced into action, a boy (and therefore not at risk of the death penalty) who, 14 at the time of the genocide, was alleged to have used his dogs to chase Tutsis from their hiding places, and a few against whom it was difficult to apportion any role at all.

My efforts were concerned mainly with avoiding the death penalty. In light of a low acquittal rate, pragmatic advice was often required. The challenge for a common law-trained lawyer was the need to adapt quickly to the peculiar culture of the trials and the inquisitorial system of justice.

Inconsistencies in evidence that are often raised in English courts held no sway in Rwanda. It was a question of gaining the trust of the judges, who were suspicious of the presence of a lawyer fortunate enough to have been nowhere near Rwanda when the genocide occurred.

The role of a defence lawyer was almost universally misunderstood. In representing a "*genocidaire*" you were often considered an accomplice.

Major trials, which might be advertised by loud-hailer or over the radio and which were often televised, attracted big crowds. It was not uncommon to find questions put via the presiding judge to a witness, a closing speech or a mitigation regularly interrupted by boos and jeers from the crowd, incensed that anyone should be uttering such words of defence in public. In those circumstances we were grateful for the presence of a presiding magistrate who was in control of his or her court.

During a break in a long trial, with 21 defendants, one judge said to me: "It's such a hard task for us finding the truth in these trials." He was right; he was one of a number of judges who worked assiduously, sifting through the heap of conflicting allegations for months on end, trying to reach the right conclusion.

After three continuous weeks of this trial it was time for me to leave. I approached the same judge and bade him farewell. Almost as an afterthought and without any malice, he said: "You are lucky to be able to leave all this behind." He was right: I was lucky to have that choice.

It is remarkable to think that these historic trials are taking place at all. Ten lawyers fly into Rwanda each month to stay between five weeks and a year. AsF aims to maintain a presence of 15 lawyers at any one time in the hope that 50 per cent of trials are covered. Their creation is a brave attempt to use the rule of law as a signal that justice will one day be established in this lawless land almost destroyed by genocide.

● *The author is a barrister with Stanbrook and Hooper in Brussels. AsF is on the Internet at http://www.asf.be*



ROBIN MAYES

Smoke signals: Peter Wilson, Gallaher's chairman, left, with colleague Philip Burchell

Profitable puffs

Tobacco trials are big business in America but will never take off here, says **James D. Zirin**

Litigation against British tobacco companies has ground to a halt. In the wake of last month's ruling that lung cancer victims were too late to bring action against Gallaher and Imperial Tobacco, a further six claimants have now thrown in the towel.

With the abandonment of the multi-million-pound law suit against the two cigarette giants, Martyn Day, the lead lawyer in the action, says it is now "very unlikely that we will see a tobacco trial in this country".

The contrast with what is happening in the United States could not be starker. The liability of tobacco companies for product-induced healthcare costs is unparalleled in Anglo-Saxon jurisprudence. Rather than the traditional suing for damages based on product liability, the state and federal governments now tap the tobacco companies for huge cash awards. Recently a group of American companies known as Big Tobacco made a $206 billion settlement with the state governments, of which about a third will line the pockets of trial lawyers.

President Clinton says that his Justice Department is seeking to recover "hundreds of billions of dollars" from the tobacco companies. The President's legal theory is that under the Medicare Recovery Act, the Government may recover from third parties amounts that can be shown to have caused an increase in Medicare costs. The tobacco companies will undoubtedly try to pass these huge costs on to the consumer.

The theory of the state settlements is that the states funded Medicaid payments to the victims of a tobacco-induced illness. The federal Government similarly hopes to recover funds, under Medicare, on similar grounds.

Both theories are legally and morally flawed. It is virtually unheard of for a medical insurer to seek recovery against the maker of a product alleged to have caused a payment for a covered claim. Indeed, a particular injustice is that state and federal governments have campaigned against cigarette smoking since the 1960s. If it really was so bad, why didn't they refuse to insure smokers under Medicaid and Medicare?

But Big Tobacco seems to be so punch-drunk it will probably cave in to the federal claims and settle the cases. After all, it would like the Government to waive claims for criminal liability, punitive damages and fines, and to abandon possible plans for federal regulation of tobacco.

What rubs against the grain is the paternalism and unfairness inherent in the Government's position. First, smokers warned of the risk freely continued to consume tobacco products at their great peril. Secondly, the Government insured such people against healthcare costs without any increased premium associated with the increased risk. Thirdly, the Government was so wary of the risk involved that it mandated a warning on every cigarette package and campaigned to discourage smoking. To pile illogic on inequity, the tobacco companies will be permitted tax deductions on amounts paid in settlement, so that a half or more of the multibillion-dollar settlements will be paid for out of the public purse.

In Britain, Labour has shown no inclination to step in; and the prospect of legal actions by health authorities look equally remote. The Government has told NHS trusts that litigation against the tobacco companies would require amendments to the law — and none is planned.

● *The author is a litigation partner with the New York law firm Brown & Wood.*

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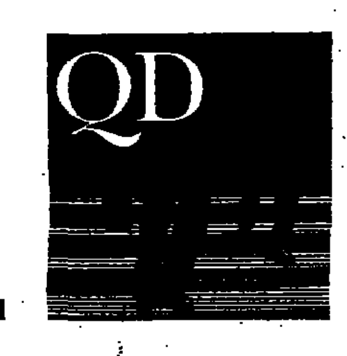
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Further details, together with an application form, can be obtained from Heather Atkinson, Senior Staff Personnel, Lord Chancellor's Department, Room 931, Selborne House, 54-60 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QW (telephone: 0171 210 8667/8).

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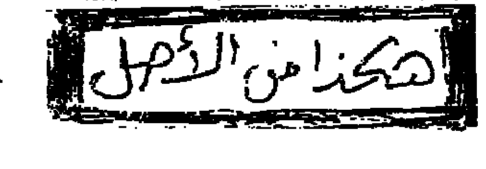
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THAMES TELEVISION

Who's been speaking to Rumpole? The new rule in theory means that both the client and the lawyer could be required to hand over confidential material

Can you keep a secret?

What you tell your lawyer may no longer be covered by privilege, say **Penny Lewis** and **Michael Bowden**

What you tell your lawyer is confidential. Or is it? Communications between lawyer and client in the privacy of the former's office are akin to those of the confessional. They are covered by privilege, one of the legal profession's fundamental articles of faith.

But all of this could be about to change. From next month new rules of court come into force that will govern all civil disputes. And they could have far-reaching and unwelcome consequences for everyone who consults a lawyer.

Buried deep in the new rules is the seemingly innocuous Rule 48.7, which concerns the power of the court to make a lawyer who mishandles a case personally pay the wasted costs. May people would rightly applaud such a move. But the rule also gives the court the power to direct a lawyer to commit what would normally be a serious professional offence — to give confidential documents belonging to the client to the other side in a dispute, without the client's consent. Until now, any lawyer who disclosed a "privileged" document to his client's opponent could usually expect trouble from the Law Society.

The rule means that both the client and the lawyer could be required to hand over confidential material, whether the client likes it or not. And unless the Lord Chancellor's Department issues guidelines or practice directions as to just how this power is to be used, it could mean that no client can ever be absolutely sure that privileged material will remain secret for ever.

The House of Lords once ruled, in the case of R v Derby Magistrates (1995) in relation to secrets disclosed to a lawyer by his client that "his mouth is shut forever". From next month this will no longer be the case.

The new rule appears to upset a law that was established in the 16th century; namely, that communications between a client and his or her lawyer will be as sacrosanct as secrets divulged to a priest in the confessional or between a journalist and his source. Indeed, it seems so radical that some lawyers are wondering whether the authors of the new rules have, in their zeal, forgotten that the Act which gave them power to write the new measures limits their scope to "practice and procedure".

In the Derby Magistrates case, the House of Lords declared that the "privilege" rules which ensure that lawyers keep their clients' secrets are "more than a rule of evidence, limited in application to an individual case, but a fundamental condition on which the administration of justice rests". Although the Act authorising the new rules also permits changes to the rules of evidence, the court in Derby Magistrates has said that the "privilege" rules are more than mere rules of evidence.

One that attacked privilege could therefore be said to go far beyond mere practice and procedure and might also undermine human rights legislation, which is supposed to confer on everyone the right to a fair trial. If the right to retain control over disclosures to one's own lawyer is perceived as fundamental to the fair administration of justice, then — unless carefully controlled — the new rule could prejudice the right to a fair trial entrenched in Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Such radical changes in policy should be properly discussed, should not be introduced through the back door by means of possibly *ultra vires* secondary legislation and should be considered very carefully. If directions governing the application of the new rule are in the pipeline, then the powers-that-be are leaving their publication until the last minute — the new rule is due to take effect in a matter of weeks.

● *The authors are solicitors with Fishburn Boxer, the City law firm.*

Making the right moves on mediation

Alternative dispute resolution needs monitoring, says **Edward Fennell**

The deal agreed last week between lawyers for the former Oasis drummer Tony McCarroll and the remaining band members was a classic last-minute settlement "at the doors of the court".

The game of mutual bluff was finally over but it had taken the prospect of days in front of the judge, and escalating legal fees, to concentrate efforts. It confirmed to objective observers that there is a better way to resolve disputes.

The signs are that with the imminent arrival of the Civil Procedure Rules (the "Woolf" reforms) mediation is on the verge of a massive boost. During the past 12 months there has been an estimated increase of 100 per cent and that figure is likely to be repeated for the foreseeable future. As a result, people now believe that a turning point has been reached in the alternative dispute resolution marketplace.

> The public must have confidence in the system if it is to work

The question is, are there enough trained, qualified and experienced mediators to take on this workload? There are several competing mediation bodies — including, notably, the Centre for Dispute Resolution, the ADR Group and the Academy of Experts — each with its own training course and qualifications. Among these bodies there is a discreet jockeying for position as an important debate starts about how to ensure a quality service in an burgeoning market.

A distinguished group of established big names, the so-called Magnificent Seven in the Panel of Independent Mediators (PIM), have joined together. While some members of PIM are partners in law firms — such as Andrew Paton of Pinsent Curtis and Philip Howell-Richardson of Morgan Cole — others are independent.

Some people wonder whether there are enough competent mediators available. Successful, widespread mediation is crucial to the Woolf drive for faster, cheaper alternatives to court hearings. If the system is to work, then the public and legal profession at large must have confidence in the services available.

Currently there is no formal requirement for training or qualifications, and if demand for mediation exceeds supply, then the danger is that inexperienced or unqualified mediators will jump in to fill the gap. Established mediators recognise that this would be disastrous. The agreement has to command the full voluntary backing of the participants but a key feature is that mediation is not binding. If badly conducted mediation leads to a succession of non-agreements, then confidence in the technique will start to fail.

There is plenty of goodwill at present. Professor Karl Mackie and his team at the Centre for Dispute Resolution have spent the past few years promoting mediation and providing well-regarded training courses. Acting as a clearing house, CEDR has helped in more than 2,000 mediations, including many that have involved sums of more than £100 million.

In the immediate future the market will decide who gets most of the work. If the Woolf reforms work, then before too long there may be a real clamour for tighter regulation.

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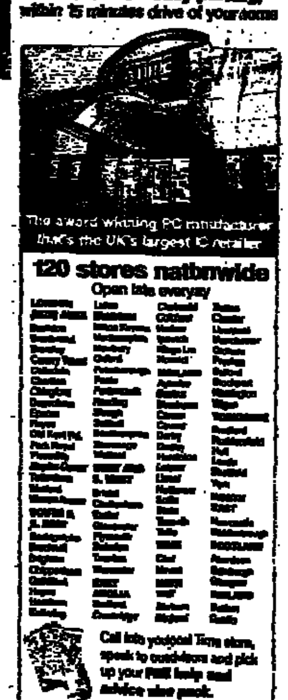


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Venture firms refuse to yield

Small companies must clear big hurdles to satisfy the tough taskmasters of the funds, says Henrietta Lake

Venture capitalists are refusing to revise their targets and are still demanding returns of 30 to 40 per cent despite an environment of low inflation.

Pressure to achieve such high returns means that securing finance has not become any easier. To grab the attention of a venture capitalist requires an experienced management team, a competitive product and a willingness to let go of about 40 per cent of the business.

With other sources of finance, such as banks, wary of the risk in supplying big sums of money to growing firms, and with stock market flotations becoming less attractive, the need for venture capital is even more acute. The Government is keen to recognise venture capital's role in driving productivity by financing companies for growth.

Measures are expected in today's Budget to promote corporate venturing, the process by which big companies take a stake in smaller growing firms.

The venture capital industry has invested £23 billion in more than 16,500 companies since 1983, and the size of the industry grows every year. This month its coffers will be boosted by an extra £100 million flowing into venture capital trusts from investors rushing to use up, for this tax year, the relief that the trusts provide from capital gains and income tax.

David Thorpe, investment director at Friends, Ivory and Sime, said: "There is a lot of money out there, but it does not mean it is all invested."

Competition for deals is tough. For every plan that a venture capitalist accepts, at least 50 are rejected.

The first thing to remember is that a venture capitalist is interested only in companies likely to grow — and grow fast. A projected return of 25 per cent within three to five years is usually the least they will settle for, and targets of 35 to 40 per cent are common. Venture capitalists argue that this is justified by the risk that they take in backing growth companies. With almost one in four deals failing, extra pressure is put on remaining companies to make up the shortfall.

However, at a time of low interest rates and low inflation some observers consider target returns of 30 to 40 per cent to be unrealistic. Competition among venture capital firms has already trimmed targets.

Duncan Innes, of Marriott Harrison, a corporate/media law firm, said: "There is a general acceptance that average returns of 30 per cent will be much harder to achieve in this economic climate and that they might have to drop by as much as 15 per cent, although many will still strive for the same levels as before."

Paul Thomas, of Gresham Trust, the investment capital company, said: "We are not going to revise our projected level of returns. It is all about backing the right people, who will survive in better shape than the rest. But we do need to become focused on doing the right deals."

In an attempt to maintain high returns venture capitalists will increasingly target the safer options of management buyouts and buy-ins, ignoring the riskier start-up and seed growth ventures.

Muriel Downs, managing director of Production Equipment, a hydraulics manufacturer in Slough, negotiated a £1.2 million deal with Barclays Ventures last year. She said: "They really have to be able to see growth potential. We are aiming for 30 per cent, although in this climate I doubt this much will be achieved."

A business plan should be detailed and well researched. It should include the latest audited accounts, the management team's biographies and as much detail as possible about the firm's track record, how much money you need and how you propose to use it.

Mr Thomas said: "Do not ask your accountant to write the plan. The investor is interested in you and your colleagues. The proper role of your adviser is to act as Devil's advocate to prepare you to be tested."

Mrs Downs agreed: "Be prepared to answer awkward questions such as 'What happens if it all goes wrong?' and 'Where will the growth come from if this division fails?'"

Andrew Crankshaw, a director of Card Warehouse, a greetings card retailer that secured £8 million of funds from Murray Johnstone Private Equity last year, said: "Striking a deal is all about chemistry. We see Murray Johnstone every month. It is a partnership."

Do not tell a venture capitalist the terms that you think he should offer you. He is in a competitive field and must match your aspirations with his needs. And don't forget that if you want a venture capitalist to have faith in your business, put your money where your mouth is and make an investment yourself.

MARTIN BEDDALL



Muriel Downs, of Production Equipment, and Jeremy Morgan, of Barclays Ventures, her £1.2 million backer, amid a flight simulator's hydraulic system

WHAT DO VENTURE CAPITALISTS WANT?

- Returns of at least 25 per cent
- Firms with high growth prospects
- Ambitious, focused management teams
- Products or services with a strong competitive edge
- Firms with an experienced management team, with complementary areas of expertise such as finance, marketing
- Firms willing to sell shares to venture capitalists
- A realistic and detailed business plan
- A clear exit within a defined timescale

IN BRIEF

Call to delay launch of minimum wage

■ A three-month delay in enforcing the national minimum wage is being demanded by business lobby groups. Employers' organisations, including the CBI and the Institute of Directors, say that the minimum wage is too complicated for firms to comply with by the time it becomes law on April 1.

The Department of Trade and Industry has published its guidelines for employers only 18 working days before the legislation becomes effective. The Government is to spend £4.8 million in the next three weeks on television advertising informing people of the changes.

Last week the Employment Policy Institute called for help for the 200,000 small businesses that will be most affected by the minimum wage.

The DTI says that elements of the proposed legislation have been altered to accommodate the needs of small firms.

The DTI's minimum wage national helpline is on 0845 8450360.

■ British businesses are becoming better payers, according to a new survey by Grant Thornton, the accountant. It says that small and medium-sized firms in the UK have reduced their payment times by one week, from 52 days to 46 days, since the survey began in 1993. This brings the UK into the top ten best payers in the European Union, for which the average payment wait is 55 days. Greece — at 87 days — has replaced Italy — at 81 days — as the country with the worst payment record.

■ Firms that have transformed themselves through information and communication technology can enter the ISI/Interforum awards. The awards, designed to reward firms that embrace electronic commerce, are open to firms with fewer than 250 staff. Application forms are at www.isi-interforum-awards.com or can be obtained by calling 0345 152000. The closing date is April 16.

■ Having a code of conduct does not indicate a more ethical approach to business, according to a survey by the Institute of Directors. Its *Ethics in Business* report shows that the adoption of a formal code of conduct on ethics creates problems in itself and is not a decisive factor in a company's ethical outlook. To obtain a copy of the report, telephone 0171-766 8766.

MEGAPHONE

Service companies deserve tax breaks too, says IAIN SLINN, managing director of Incentives and Meetings, a conference organiser based in Glasgow, with seven staff and turnover of £1 million.

"Today the Chancellor is expected to announce tax reliefs for companies to invest in research and development. This is fine for manufacturers and technology companies, but what about firms like mine in the service industry? I find it galling that small firms are not allowed to carry forward to the next year a proportion of their profits tax-free to reinvest in the company — for example, in its marketing budget. If the Government wants to do something constructive to drive productivity, it must look at the needs of all smaller firms, not just some."



Slinn: tax-free plea

☐ *Any company wishing to express a view in Megaphone should contact In Business*

Etiquette for e-mailers

BUSINESS BYTES

Anthony Capstick on making the most of Web communication, and avoiding gaffes and legal dangers

E-mail exists to make life easier and if used correctly is an invaluable tool for businesses of all sizes. However, many people compose an e-mail as if chatting to a friend on the telephone. An e-mail may be quick to compose and send, but this does not mean that no thought should go into it, particularly in business.

The key to deciding what type of e-mail is appropriate is to think about who you are communicating with. When in doubt, act as if writing a letter to a customer and leave the exclamation marks and funny faces :-) to Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks. Such dialogue, used in their new film, *You've Got Mail*, is far from that required when answering inquiries about availability of car parts.

However, there are some simple etiquette rules. Keep e-mails brief and to the point, reply within 24 hours and change the "Re:" or "Subject:" box heading if ongoing correspondence shifts to a new topic. Start e-mails formally "Dear . . ." as in a letter, particularly on first communication. This will also not cause offence when e-mailing firms abroad.

Last week's government announcement that electronic documents, such as e-mails, will be on the same legal footing as the paper-based word is good news for companies wanting to save time and administrative costs by doing as much business as possible electronically. If orders start arriving by e-mail, it is wise to review your standard terms and conditions, or at least to make provision for e-mail in any written agreements with customers or suppliers. Some company websites allow e-mails containing orders to be placed only via a screen stating terms and conditions, an important factor if a dispute arises later.

Also, consider the use of company e-mail facilities by staff. A firm has a duty to take reasonable steps to ensure that e-mailing by staff is legal. E-mailing pornographic or other risky material is a sackable offence and imperils a firm's standing. It may be worth reminding staff that the server logs and records all e-mails.

Many big companies try to counter this problem by attaching permanent disclaimers such as "Internet communications are not secure and therefore X does not accept legal responsibility for the contents of this message. Any opinions are solely those of the author."

The creation of a permanent "signature" is also a good idea. This is a small text file giving information about the sender, such as full name, company name, address and telephone number, extension, fax, e-mail and Web addresses, which is put at the end of the e-mail. Sometimes a "conversation" may be more easily continued by telephone and it is infuriating if no number is given.

Many firms experience e-mail overload. Big attached files slow down a system by taking up a lot of memory. Discourage the sending of unnecessary attachments. This includes all-singing, all-dancing electronic Christmas cards.

Although the facility to attach files is useful, some people may be unable to handle the type of file you send. If in doubt, try to send information in the body of the e-mail. If sending pictures, try to use a format taking the least space or the message will take a long time to send and the receiver may be unable to view the picture. Stick to common standards, such as .JPG or .GIF.

A system also becomes clogged if it is not used properly. Make sure staff know that they must empty their "inbox" regularly to prevent it becoming so full that it rejects incoming messages. Print out documents that may be needed later. Help to keep e-mail efficient. Depending on how many e-mails you get, check the inbox at least three times a day or have a message pop up on screen to let you know "you've got mail". You wouldn't want to miss an order.



Meg Ryan's e-mail style in *You've Got Mail* is not right for business

Anthony B. Capstick, author of How to Change Your Life with Technology, *is the managing director of Instant Search Business Information.*

MR SMEE

WHEN YOU SAID LETS PERSONALISE OUR ONLINE WORKING RELATIONSHIP

AND DO LUNCH...

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD PERHAPS TURN UP IN PERSON?

WE MUST DO THIS AGAIN SOMETIME

IN BUSINESS IS EDITED BY HENRIETTA LAKE
henrietta.lake@the-times.co.uk



HUGH ROUTLEDGE

John Aloisi, of Coventry City, has been in goalscoring form of late, but his dismissal against Charlton Athletic was not quite what the Fantasy League doctor ordered

Crossing Guppy's path can pay generous dividends

While the spotlight was on the FA Cup sixth round at the weekend, there were significant results in the FA Carling Premiership that affected *The Times* Fantasy League.

Steve Guppy, of Leicester City, dead-ball expert and the most prolific crosser in the top flight according to statistics, won Saturday's game at Selhurst Park with an early strike after a clearance by Neil Sullivan, the Wimbledon goalkeeper, had found its way straight to him, and his part in Leicester's defence of their lead helped to earn a clean sheet and his team's first league win of the year.

Guppy described the 25-yard shot into the top corner as one of the best goals of his career. "From the moment I hit it, I knew it was going in. It was a great feeling. I've scored four goals this season, and every one has been from outside the box. It would be nice to get a tap-in."

According to Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, Guppy, formerly with Wycombe Wanderers and Port Vale, is in good form. "He's been remarkably consistent and it's great to have a winger who gets back and does his defensive jobs."

That is good news for those who have him in their Fantasy teams; for Fantasy League purposes, he is classed as a full back, so he receives three points from any Leicester clean sheets, but his raids down the flanks mean that he will grab plenty of two-point assists too.

Leicester's 2-1 defeat by Leeds United last Monday left him with a one-point deficit, but Saturday's exploits gave him a total of five points for the past seven days.

It was no surprise to find that Guppy was part of this week's top team, Nina Jack Tom, selected by Michael Earls, of Brackley, Northamptonshire, who receives £500 plus £100 worth of sports equipment. "I'm a Wycombe boy and I've always followed his career," Mr Earls said. "He's a good attacking player."

Mr Earls, managing director of a carpet company, is a season-ticket holder at White Hart Lane, and was pleased to note that David Ginola, of Tottenham Hotspur, contributed two assists to his team total, in last week's win over Southampton. "I picked an attacking midfield," he explained.

Three points each were also contributed by midfield men Harry Kewell and Noel Whelan, both acquired in a November swoop on the transfer market, which also brought in Marcus Gayle, his joint top-scorer for the week with five points in Wimbledon's midweek win away to Sheffield Wednesday.

At first, Mr Earls took some convincing that our call to him was not a practical joke played by a work colleague. Now do you believe us?

☐ For legal reasons, *The Times Fantasy League is no longer able to* accept entries from players under 18 years of age. Players 17 years and under already registered in the main and youth leagues will, however, be allowed to remain in the competition.



WEEKLY WINNER

NINA JACK TOM

S Given (NEW)	0
S Guppy (LEI)	5
A Hinchcliffe (SHE)	1
R Ferdinand (WES)	0
G Pallister (MID)	0
H Kewell (LEE)	3
G Poyet (CHE)	0
N Whelan (COV)	3
D Ginola (TOT)	4
M Gayle (WIM)	5
R Fowler (LIV)	0
TOTAL POINTS: 21	

PRIZES

- *£50,000 to the top Fantasy League manager, plus a trip for two to the European Cup final*
- *£10,000 to the runner-up*
- *£5,000 for third place*
- *£1,000 monthly prizes: eight prizes of £1,000, plus £100 of Puma sports equipment*
- *£500 weekly prizes: 36 prizes of £500, plus £100 of Puma sports equipment*
- *£1,000 youth prize, plus monthly prizes of a Premiership football shirt*
- *£500 weekly On-Target prize*

As I was saying

The Cup has disrupted another programme of league games, I see.

Yes, and it is also affecting this week's midweek games. ***Manchester United*** **were originally due to play Liverpool tomorrow, but now they're playing away to Chelsea instead, in the Cup replay.**

I thought replays were always nine or ten days after the original match?

Ordinarily they are, but Manchester United are in Milan playing Inter next week, so they've got special permission to bring the replay forward.

Complicated, isn't it? And if fixture congestion wasn't enough, players are having to waste valuable training time writing letters of apology to the Football Association.

I presume you mean Messrs Fowler and Le Saux?

Of course. And it sets a worrying precedent.

Oh, I don't know. At least **Le Saux got in a good, clean strike. It wasn't a case of "handbags at ten paces".**

An unfortunate choice of words in the circumstances.

Possibly. But what is your objection to our sporting heroes putting pen to paper? Surely it's better than coming to blows.

Yes, but if they start writing letters about everything they've done wrong, where will it all end? "Dear Mr Elleray, I would like to say sorry for questioning your parentage ..."

Or how about: "Dear Mrs Drewery, I apologise for not taking your healing powers seriously. My dodgy groin has started playing up again and I'd like you to have a look at it"?

Exactly. But I think that *some clubs will have to* employ writing coaches along with fitness trainers and psychologists.

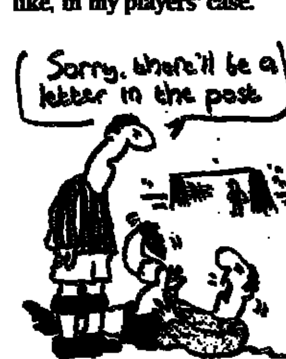
They might have to go right back to basics in some cases.

Oh, I think that players who can't write at all just get their agents to do it for them.

Well, whoever does it, I'd welcome something along the lines of "I sincerely regret my complete loss of form, beginning at the precise second when you signed me for your fantasy team."

You'll be lucky. But does the Le Saux situation affect you? Neither he nor Fowler is in any of your teams, so even if they both pull down a big suspension, it won't matter. Unless you think that any of your players will lose form *because they're worried* about being outed as Friends of Dorothy?

Friends of Dobbin, more like, in my players' case.




Still seeking that elusive prize? Then enter today

Congratulations to Mr J. Clemence of Ruislip, Middlesex, the main winner of ON-Target this week, who finds himself £500 richer and possessor of an EA Sports Pack. Fourteen other managers have also managed to win themselves excellent prizes.

Even if you do not have a Fantasy League team, you can enter this new game now — or enter a new one simply for ON-Target. All managers have the chance to win a share of £28,000 of new prizes. *The Times* has teamed up with EA Sports to offer you the chance to own the renowned *FIFA '99* game. Every week you have the chance to win:

■ 1st prize: £500 plus an EA Sports Pack
■ 4 runners up: EA Sports Packs
■ 10 additional runners up: Fifa '99 CD-Rom.

IF YOU already have a team in the main game, then you're ready to play ON-Target. Simply check your Fantasy League players' score each week and see if their total is the same as our ON-Target score shown here each Tuesday. If you have scored the exact target points, a quick call to our ON-Target winners' line (national rate call) will put you in the draw to win a prize.

The ON-Target score *may* be high or low. There could be more than one score (such as today). It could be a minus score. So it's worth checking your performance every week.

Just have your PIN handy to call the winners line on:
0870 901 4270

If you don't have a team, or want to sign up another one, enter now by filling in the entry form. There are no limits to how many teams you enter.

HOW TO ENTER: Look up your players' weekly point scores opposite and add them up, or call the checkline 0640 625 102. If your total score for this week matches the ON-Target number(s), then call our claim line on **0870 901 4270** (calls, charged at national rate, should last about a minute). Claims must be made before midnight on Sunday night. The lines then close until the next game starts on Tuesday morning.

If you have scored the correct number of points AND called the claim line, you go into the draw. Just look in the paper on the following Tuesday to see if you have won.

Managers with the correct points who have *not* called the claim line will not be entered. Calls that are incomplete, inaudible or invalid will not be entered. All teams in the draw must conform to the main game rules.

This week's winners are: Mr J. Clemence of Ruislip, Middlesex (£500 plus EA Sports Pack); Shirley Simpson of London, Steve Walker of Hull, Terry Yates of Brough, Humberside and Gerrad Coalman of Durham (EA Sports Packs); Mark Wardop of London, Jeff Boycock of Stoke-on-Trent, Leslie Edwards of Slough, David Breewood of Stockport, Steven Nixon of Fleetwood, Mr B. Berue of Hull, David Tucker of Woodbridge, Suffolk, James Topham of Surbiton, Simon Birkett of Letchworth, Hertfordshire and John Lee of Manchester (Fifa '99 CD-Roms).

Has your team scored . . .
3 or 6
points?
Check your total, then ring
0870 901 4270
(ex UK +44 870 901 4270)
Calls charged at national rates

FANTASY LEAGUE LEADERS

1	Phil Clarke	Shabadi United	325
2	James Kerr	Serious Squad	317
3	Sarabjot Kohli	Junglemen	312
4	Robert Little	Broken Arrow	308
5	Mark Coles	Joe Public	307
6	Michael Matejtschuk	Bandidos Darsene	305
7	David Edmondson	Edmo Utd Mington	301
7	Lucy Crosthwaite	I Hate Football	301
7	Tim Gardner	Harchester Who?	301
10	Robert Anderson	Robert's Rovers	300
10	Mike Shipley	Minor Threat	300
10	Peter Leathem	Spike Town	300
13	David Young	Dave 10	299
13	John Lofthouse	Solid At The Bac	299
13	A J Spencer	This One's Mine	299
13	David Wise	Walsall Reserves	299
17	Carol Flint	The Baggage Boys	298
17	Phil Tusler	Peter 7	298
19	Robin Harrington	Chequers Champs	297
19	John Humphreys	Academicals	297
19	Gordon Crutchley	Super Saddlers B	297
19	Richard Deane	On The Wagon	297
23	Brian Payne	Cosmopolitan III	296
23	Jennifer Cockburn	Yeah Right!	296
23	Phil Tusler	Pin-Ups 7	296
26	David Tilley	Tilley FC	295
26	Mike Truran	Tigger United	295
26	John White	Fusegear	295
29	Kevin Styles	Olivianewtonjohn	294
29	Jason Wynne	Taffys Terrors	294
29	Paul O'Neill	Four Four Two	294
29	David Mead	In The City	294
33	Darren Sawyer	Finchleyallstars	293
34	Mark Gayler	Third Time Lucky	292
34	John Green	Chicken Chasers	292
34	Henrietta Ball	Henri & Goals UU	292
37	Colin Head	Headstart Gunard	291
38	Terry Bollen	Dion Dion Dion	290
39	Mandy Adamson	Man(dy) United	289
39	Philip Morton	Skill Vanili	289
39	Anil Nathan	Nathan Hotspurs	289
39	Mike Shipley	Minus Threat 10	289
39	James Muir	James Muirauders	289
39	Neil Bradbrook	Chapeltown Elite	289

YOUTH LEAGUE LEADERS

1	Sarabjot Kohli	Junglemen	312
2	Robert Anderson	Robert's Rovers	300
3	Henrietta Ball	Henri & Goals UU	292
4	Matthew O'Neil	The M Team	287
5	Jwalant Popat	Popat's Army	285
6	Tom Summers	Ganichou	284
7	Graham Booth	Manchester City	280
7	Claire Barber	Super Spurs	280
9	Matthew Watson	Matt's Magic	279
10	Daniel Lewis	It's A Puppet!	278

FANTASY LEAGUE SERVICES

Use these numbers for all the information you need:

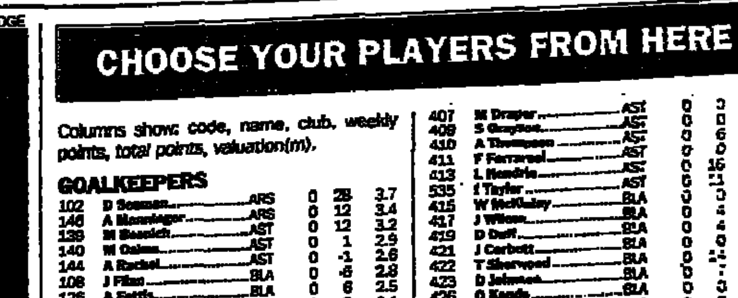
CHECKLINE
To check your team's standing
0640 625 102
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4292)

TRANSFER LINE
To alter your team
0640 625 103
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4293)
0640 calls cost 60p per minute (ex UK numbers charge at national rates)

FAXBACK
A comprehensive update sheet
0991 123 720
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4280)

SUPER LEAGUE FAXBACK
A brand new service
0991 123 721
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4279)
Faxbacks cost £1 per minute (ex UK numbers charged at national rates)

HELPLINE
for any queries
01582 702720



CHOOSE YOUR PLAYERS FROM HERE

Columns show: code, name, club, weekly points, total points, valuation(m).

GOALKEEPERS

102	D Seaman	ARS	0	28	3.7
146	A Manninger	ARS	0	12	3.4
139	M Bosnich	AST	0	12	3.2
140	M Oakes	AST	0	1	2.9
144	A Rachel	AST	0	-1	2.6
108	J Filan	BLA	0	-6	2.8
126	A Fettis	BLA	0	6	2.5
127	T Flowers	BLA	0	-3	3.1
104	S Ilic	CHA	0	-11	2.3
105	M Salmon	CHA	0	0	2.2
106	A Petterson	CHA	0	-1	2.2
134	S Royce	CHA	-1	10	2.2
137	D Kharine	CHE	0	0	2.9
138	E de Goey	CHE	0	28	3.2
107	S Ogrizovic	COV	0	-1	2.4
117	M Hedman	COV	0	-3	2.6
103	R Hoult	DER	0	5	2.3
153	M Poom	DER	0	9	2.5
112	P Gerrard	EVE	0	0	2.4
114	S Simonsen	EVE	0	0	2.7
118	T Myhre	EVE	0	20	2.8
113	N Martyn	LEE	0	14	3.1
125	P Robinson	LEE	0	4	2.7
123	K Keller	LEI	0	5	2.9
124	P Arphexad	LEI	1	1	2.6
122	B Friedel	LIV	0	-1	3.3
131	D James	LIV	0	5	3.3
116	P Schmeichel	MAN	0	14	4.0
121	R van der Gouw	MAN	0	3	3.5
109	M Schwarzer	MID	0	8	2.7
110	B Roberts	MID	0	0	2.4
111	M Beresford	MID	0	-3	2.5
141	S Given	NEW	0	10	3.0
142	L Perez	NEW	0	0	2.7
143	S Harper	NEW	0	2	2.5
119	D Beasant	NOT	0	-24	2.7
120	M Crossley	NOT	0	3	2.6
136	K Pressman	SHE	0	7	2.5
149	M Clarke	SHE	0	0	2.2
150	P Srnicek	SHE	-2	9	2.3
147	N Moss	SOU	0	-2	2.2
148	P Jones	SOU	1	-7	2.4
128	I Walker	TOT	3	13	2.8
154	H Segers	TOT	0	0	2.4
155	E Baardsen	TOT	0	3	2.6
129	C Forrest	WES	0	0	2.5
130	S Hislop	WES	0	2	2.7
132	N Sullivan	WIM	0	1	2.5
135	P Heald	WIM	0	0	2.3

FULL BACKS

203	R Garde	ARS	0	14	3.5
204	L Dixon	ARS	0	38	4.1
205	N Winterburn	ARS	0	26	4.2
260	D Grondin	ARS	0	3	3.4
261	N Vivas	ARS	0	9	3.7
209	A Wright	AST	0	14	3.7
211	G Croft	BLA	0	0	3.2
248	C Davidson	BLA	0	6	3.1
262	J Kenna	BLA	0	-2	3.5
221	C Powell	CHA	-1	6	2.7
240	D Mills	CHA	-1	22	2.6
241	M Bowen	CHA	0	0	2.7
242	S Brown	CHA	-1	8	2.5
243	A Barness	CHA	-1	-2	2.5
803	P Konchesky	CHA	0	3	2.5
210	A Ferrer	CHE	0	20	3.7
212	G Le Saux	CHE	0	15	4.0
215	C Babayaro	CHE	0	32	3.5
216	F Sinclair	CHE	0	8	3.3
217	M Hall	COV	0	0	2.7
219	R Nilsson	COV	0	4	2.9
231	D Burrows	COV	0	-8	2.9
247	I Brightwell	COV	0	0	2.8
267	M Edworthy	COV	0	-1	2.9
220	R Kozluk	DER	0	0	2.6
223	S Schnoor	DER	0	18	2.8
287	S Elliott	DER	0	1	2.6
295	A Dorigo	DER	0	13	2.8
249	J O'Kane	EVE	0	0	2.9
256	T Thomas	EVE	0	0	2.7
258	M Ball	EVE	0	35	2.8
271	A Cleland	EVE	0	20	2.9
272	T Phelan	EVE	0	0	2.8
286	M Ward	EVE	0	-3	3.0
802	A Farley	EVE	0	-1	2.6
214	D Granville	LEE	0	5	3.5
224	I Harte	LEE	0	26	3.4
225	D Robertson	LEE	0	0	3.3
226	G Kelly	LEE	0	0	3.9
227	L Sharpe	LEE	0	0	3.6
235	R Ullathorne	LEI	-1	8	3.0
237	R Savage	LEI	2	1	3.3
238	S Guppy	LEI	5	28	3.5
228	J McAteer	LIV	0	1	4.2
229	S Harkness	LIV	0	1	3.8
230	R Jones	LIV	0	0	3.6
232	S I Bjornebye	LIV	0	7	3.8
250	V Heggem	LIV	0	15	3.9
236	D Irwin	MAN	0	24	4.3
283	J Curtis	MAN	0	-1	3.5
284	P Neville	MAN	0	12	4.3
285	G Neville	MAN	0	20	4.5
294	W Brown	MAN	0	2	3.6
252	C Fleming	MID	0	9	3.0
253	V Kinder	MID	0	3	3.0
254	C Harrison	MID	0	0	2.8
255	D Gordon	MID	0	19	3.2
259	G Lombardi	MID	0	0	2.9
266	R Stockdale	MID	0	5	2.8
244	N Solano	NEW	0	25	3.3
246	A Griffin	NEW	0	2	3.2
273	S Watson	NEW	0	12	3.4
274	W Barton	NEW	0	10	3.4
276	L Charvet	NEW	0	10	3.3
280	C Serrant	NEW	0	-1	3.2
281	A Pistone	NEW	0	-3	3.5
296	D Domi	NEW	0	-2	3.3
290	D Lyttle	NOT	0	-5	2.9
291	A Rogers	NOT	0	-10	3.0
292	T Bonalair	NOT	0	-5	3.1
293	M Louis-Jean	NOT	0	-1	2.7
801	S Stensaas	NOT	0	5	2.7
202	E Barrett	SHE	0	-1	2.8
268	A Hinchcliffe	SHE	1	30	3.2
269	J Cobian	SHE	0	1	2.8
279	I Nolan	SHE	0	0	2.8
289	L Briscoe	SHE	0	-6	2.6
239	J Beresford	SOU	0	0	2.8
263	J Dodd	SOU	0	-5	2.8
288	P Warner	SOU	0	-4	2.5
297	P Colleter	SOU	1	-1	2.6
251	C Wilson	TOT	0	0	3.0
264	S Carr	TOT	3	22	3.1
265	P Tramezzani	TOT	0	-2	3.2
270	J Edinburgh	TOT	0	8	2.9
298	M Taricco	TOT	3	9	3.3
206	S Potts	WES	0	1	3.0
233	S Lazaridis	WES	0	0	3.2
234	A Impey	WES	-1	10	3.1
299	S Minto	WES	0	-2	3.1
275	D Jupp	WIM	0	-2	2.6
277	B Thatcher	WIM	0	4	2.9
278	A Kimble	WIM	0	5	2.9
282	K Cunningham	WIM	2	5	3.0

CENTRE BACKS

305	S Bould	ARS	0	12	3.8
307	T Adams	ARS	0	27	4.4
322	M Keown	ARS	0	42	4.1
337	G Grimandi	ARS	0	8	3.6
347	M Upson	ARS	0	1	3.4
301	U Ehiogu	AST	0	24	3.7
303	G Southgate	AST	0	15	3.6
304	R Scimeca	AST	0	8	3.3
329	G Barry	AST	0	8	3.1
353	S Peres	BLA	0	2	3.3
354	D Peacock	BLA	0	-1	3.3
365	S Henchoz	BLA	0	-2	3.4
374	M Broomes	BLA	0	-1	2.8
308	R Rufus	CHA	0	-7	2.7
309	E Youds	CHA	0	-4	2.6
356	B Lambourde	CHE	0	6	3.4
365	M Desailly	CHE	0	21	3.8
368	M Duberry	CHE	0	15	3.5
370	A Myers	CHE	0	0	3.3
381	F Leboeuf	CHE	0	38	4.2
357	G Breen	COV	0	0	3.0
384	P Williams	COV	0	4	2.9
387	R Shaw	COV	0	1	2.8
388	L Daish	COV	0	0	2.8
903	M Konjic	COV	0	-3	2.7
311	J Laursen	DER	0	13	2.9
312	I Stimac	DER	0	5	3.0
313	R Delap	DER	0	16	2.7
314	H Carbonari	DER	0	20	3.1
326	C Dailly	DER	0	-1	3.0
306	S Bilic	EVE	0	2	3.1
323	D Unsworth	EVE	0	26	3.1
324	D Watson	EVE	0	15	2.9
325	C Tiler	EVE	-1	12	3.0
327	C Short	EVE	0	7	2.9
328	M Materazzi	EVE	0	15	3.0
348	R Dunne	EVE	0	14	2.7
904	D Weir	EVE	0	0	2.8
390	L Radebe	LEE	0	18	3.5
331	M Hiden	LEE	0	14	3.4
332	J Woodgate	LEE	0	7	3.2
380	D Wetherall	LEE	0	5	3.6
398	R Molenaar	LEE	0	20	3.4
334	G Taggart	LEI	3	6	3.2
335	P Kaamark	LEI	2	-4	3.3
336	S Walsh	LEI	3	17	3.3
338	M Elliott	LEI	2	22	3.9
389	S Prior	LEI	0	18	3.1
302	S Staunton	LIV	0	5	4.1
320	P Babb	LIV	0	4	3.7
375	D Matteo	LIV	0	2	3.6
376	F Kippe	LIV	0	0	3.4
399	B T Kvarme	LIV	0	-1	3.5
902	R Song	LIV	0	-1	3.8
321	H Berg	MAN	0	7	3.9
368	D May	MAN	0	0	3.9
382	J Stam	MAN	0	19	4.5
383	R Johnsen	MAN	0	20	4.1
339	G Pallister	MID	0	7	3.2
343	G Festa	MID	0	9	3.1
344	S Vickers	MID	0	3	3.0
340	S Pearce	NEW	0	3	3.2
341	S Howey	NEW	0	1	3.3
342	N Dabizas	NEW	0	10	3.4
345	A Hughes	NEW	0	-3	3.0
361	P Albert	NEW	0	4	3.5
349	C Edwards	NOT	0	2	2.8
350	C Cooper	NOT	0	6	3.2
351	S Chettle	NOT	0	-10	3.0
352	J-O Hjelde	NOT	0	-15	2.9
371	J Mattisson	NOT	0	-8	2.8
901	C Doig	NOT	0	-3	2.8
905	R Gough	NOT	0	0	2.7
358	P Atherton	SHE	-1	20	2.9
360	D Walker	SHE	-1	16	2.8
362	D Stefanovic	SHE	0	2	2.7
364	J Newsome	SHE	0	-1	2.8
317	K Monkou	SOU	0	-1	2.7
385	F Benali	SOU	1	-5	2.7
386	R Dryden	SOU	0	3	2.5
391	C Lundekvam	SOU	1	-5	2.6
394	S Marshall	SOU	0	-5	2.7
395	S Hiley	SOU	1	-8	2.5
397	G Monk	SOU	0	-6	2.5
346	C Calderwood	TOT	0	11	3.1
373	J Scales	TOT	0	6	3.0
377	L Young	TOT	3	6	2.7
378	S Campbell	TOT	3	33	3.3
396	R Vega	TOT	0	12	3.4
315	J Dicks	WES	0	3	3.3
319	I Pearce	WES	0	9	3.1
363	R Hall	WES	0	0	2.9
367	J Margas	WES	0	-6	3.2
369	N Ruddock	WES	0	3	3.0
393	R Ferdinand	WES	0	10	3.2
372	C Perry	WIM	0	1	3.1
390	B McAllister	WIM	0	0	2.8
392	D Blackwell	WIM	0	1	2.9

MIDFIELDERS

405	E Petit	ARS	0	8	4.4
408	M Overmars	ARS	0	21	5.6
418	R Parlour	ARS	0	17	4.0
420	P Vieira	ARS	0	5	4.1
424	F Ljungberg	ARS	0	3	5.5
425	S Hughes	ARS	0	7	3.5
407	M Draper	AST	0	0	3.7
409	S Grayson	AST	0	0	3.3
410	A Thompson	AST	0	6	4.5
411	F Ferraresi	AST	0	0	2.6
413	L Hendrie	AST	0	16	3.7
535	I Taylor	AST	0	11	3.8
415	W McKinlay	BLA	0	0	3.2
417	J Wilcox	BLA	0	4	4.0
419	D Duff	BLA	0	4	4.2
421	J Corbett	BLA	0	0	3.3
422	T Sherwood	BLA	0	14	4.5
423	D Johnson	BLA	0	7	3.1
426	O Konde	BLA	0	0	3.3
427	D Marcolin	BLA	0	3	3.6
428	D Dunn	BLA	0	7	3.1
575	G Flitcroft	BLA	0	10	3.3
499	S Parker	CHA	0	2	3.0
501	K Jones	CHA	0	5	3.1
502	M Kinsella	CHA	0	8	3.5
504	M Holmes	CHA	0	0	3.2
505	S Newton	CHA	0	2	3.3
506	J Robinson	CHA	0	7	3.2
507	N Redfearn	CHA	0	8	4.1
508	P Mortimer	CHA	0	5	3.4
401	M Nicholls	CHE	0	0	3.3
404	P Hughes	CHE	0	0	3.1
425	J Morris	CHE	0	5	3.2
430	R Di Matteo	CHE	0	11	4.4
433	B Goldbaek	CHE	0	11	3.9
434	D Petrescu	CHE	0	14	4.3
435	E Newton	CHE	0	0	3.1
437	G Poyet	CHE	0	25	4.9
439	D Wise	CHE	0	6	3.8
465	G McAllister	COV	0	7	3.9
584	L Delorge	COV	0	0	3.5
588	B Quinn	COV	0	2	3.2
589	P Hall	COV	0	0	3.8
590	P Telfer	COV	0	7	3.5
591	N Whelan	COV	3	26	4.4
592	T E Soltvedt	COV	3	10	3.4
593	W Boland	COV	0	0	3.0
594	G Boateng	COV	0	13	3.3
595	P Clement	COV	0	2	3.5
596	G Strachan	COV	0	0	3.1
598	S Shilton	COV	0	0	3.0
599	S Froggatt	COV	0	17	3.7
440	D Powell	DER	0	4	3.2
442	S Eranio	DER	0	0	3.8
443	L Carsley	DER	0	5	3.1
444	F Baiano	DER	0	3	5.2
445	K Harper	DER	0	5	3.7
446	J Hunt	DER	0	3	3.4
479	L Bohinen	DER	0	2	3.6
403	G Farrelly	EVE	0	0	3.2
414	A Grant	EVE	0	0	3.1
418	D Williamson	EVE	0	0	3.2
447	J Oster	EVE	0	0	3.4
448	N Barmby	EVE	0	11	4.8
449	O Dacourt	EVE	0	3	3.6
450	J Collins	EVE	0	3	4.6
570	D Hutchison	EVE	0	12	4.0
457	M Jones	LEE	0	0	3.0
458	W Korsten	LEE	0	3	3.5
459	H Kewell	LEE	3	29	4.4
466	L Bowyer	LEE	0	20	3.9
480	A I Haaland	LEE	0	0	3.6
481	B Ribeiro	LEE	0	3	3.8
482	C Hallo	LEE	0	6	3.3
522	D Hopkin	LEE	0	12	3.7
532	S McPhail	LEE	0	4	3.1
452	N Lennon	LEI	0	4	3.5
453	S Campbell	LEI	0	0	3.1
454	G Parker	LEI	0	0	3.6
460	M Izzet	LEI	2	13	3.8
565	T Zagorakis	LEI	0	7	3.4
412	J Carragher	LIV	0	8	3.3
467	J Redknapp	LIV	0	20	4.2
468	S McManaman	LIV	0	12	5.5
469	P Berger	LIV	0	20	4.4
470	D Thompson	LIV	0	3	3.2
472	S Gerrard	LIV	0	0	3.1
475	J-M Ferri	LIV	0	0	3.9
487	D Murphy	LIV	0	0	3.7
490	P Ince	LIV	0	15	4.5
529	O Leonhardsen	LIV	0	0	4.3
483	J Blomqvist	MAN	0	9	5.0
484	N Butt	MAN	0	14	4.1
485	R Giggs	MAN	0	15	5.6
486	P Scholes	MAN	0	31	5.5
491	J Cruyff	MAN	0	8	3.8
492	D Beckham	MAN	0	29	5.9
509	R Keane	MAN	0	6	4.4
510	N Maddison	MID	0	0	3.1
511	A Townsend	MID	0	7	3.6
512	R Mustoe	MID	0	8	3.4
514	P Gascoigne	MID	0	15	4.5
515	P Merson	MID	0	17	4.7
516	A Moore	MID	0	0	3.5
517	P Stamp	MID	0	6	3.4
533	M Summerbell	MID	0	0	3.0
461	G Georgiadis	NEW	0	0	3.9
462	D Batty	NEW	0	0	3.7
463	S Glass	NEW	0	17	3.5
464	G Speed	NEW	0	6	4.3
473	J Barnes	NEW	0	0	3.6
478	S Maric	NEW	0	0	4.4
488	P Dalglish	NEW	0	3	3.8
489	K Gillespie	NEW	0	7	4.3
493	G Brady	NEW	0	0	3.3
494	D Hamilton	NEW	0	0	3.3
495	T Ketsbaia	NEW	0	17	3.8
496	R Lee	NEW	0	4	4.2
497	D Hamann	NEW	0	8	3.9
518	N Quashie	NOT	0	2	3.8
519	G Hodges	NOT	0	0	3.3
520	C Bart-Williams	NOT	0	5	3.6
521	S Gemmill	NOT	0	2	3.5
524	G Thomas	NOT	0	0	3.5
525	A Johnson	NOT	0	4	3.7
526	S Stone	NOT	0	5	4.0
527	I Woan	NOT	0	0	3.8
530	A Gray	NOT	0	0	3.4
545	H Perfide	NOT	0	0	3.6
550	J Harkes	NOT	0	0	3.1
537	N Alexandersson	SHE	0	17	3.5
538	P Rudi	SHE	0	17	3.8
539	G Whittingham	SHE	0	0	3.7
546	S Quinn	SHE	0	0	3.0
547	W Jonk	SHE	0	14	4.3
548	J Magilton	SHE	0	0	3.1
549	D Sonner	SHE	0	8	3.2
562	B Carbone	SHE	0	28	4.7
597	E Thome	SHE	3	7	3.2
500	S Ripley	SOU	0	2	3.9
536	C Palmer	SOU	0	2	3.2
541	D Howells	SOU	0	3	3.2
542	M Le Tissier	SOU	0	24	6.0
543	W Bridge	SOU	0	0	3.0
544	K Gibbens	SOU	0	0	3.0
556	C Marsden	SOU	0	0	3.3
557	M Oakley	SOU	0	10	3.1
558	D Hughes	SOU	0	0	3.1
498	D Ginola	TOT	4	18	4.8
503	R Fox	TOT	0	8	4.1
523	A Sinton	TOT	0	0	3.4
551	S Clemence	TOT	0	0	3.2
552	S Freund	TOT	0	0	3.9
553	A Nielsen	TOT	0	13	3.7
554	J Dominguez	TOT	3	5	3.5
555	D Anderton	TOT	0	21	4.6
568	M Saib	TOT	0	0	3.6
436	J Moncur	WES	0	0	3.4
561	E Berkovic	WES	0	20	4.8
573	M-V Foe	WES	0	0	3.6
574	J Cole	WES	0	0	3.5
576	T Sinclair	WES	0	14	5.1
577	S Lomas	WES	0	5	3.3
578	F Lampard	WES	0	20	3.7
579	M Keller	WES	0	11	3.9
471	M Kennedy	WIM	0	2	3.8
559	R Earle	WIM	0	14	4.1
560	A Roberts	WIM	0	8	3.3
563	N Ardley	WIM	2	2	3.4
580	M Hughes	WIM	0	11	3.5
585	G Ainsworth	WIM	0	0	3.8
586	C Hughes	WIM	0	0	3.3
587	P Fear	WIM	0	0	3.0

FORWARDS

601	L Boa Morte	ARS	0	0	5.4
602	N Anelka	ARS	0	47	8.0
606	D Bergkamp	ARS	0	39	9.1
617	Kanu	ARS	0	0	7.7
623	C Wreh	ARS	0	0	5.8
624	K Diawara	ARS	0	0	6.4
645	D Yorke	AST	0	70	8.3
646	J Joachim	AST	0	31	6.2
651	D Vassell	AST	0	0	5.4
652	S Collymore	AST	0	7	8.0
647	C Sutton	BLA	0	13	8.4
648	N Blake	BLA	0	9	6.7
691	M Dahlin	BLA	0	4	6.4
692	A Ward	BLA	0	6	6.9
693	K Gallacher	BLA	0	9	7.5
695	M Jansen	BLA	0	3	6.4
698	K Davies	BLA	0	7	7.4
604	C Mendonca	CHA	0	11	6.5
606	M Bright	CHA	0	3	5.6
607	S Jones	CHA	0	5	5.0
608	A Hunt	CHA	2	22	5.5
616	M Pringle	CHA	0	9	5.2
636	P Casiraghi	CHE	0	5	7.6
637	T A Flo	CHE	0	27	7.2
639	G Vialli	CHE	0	4	6.6
642	M Forssell	CHE	0	3	5.9
679	G Zola	CHE	0	38	7.4
680	D Huckerby	COV	0	27	7.2
683	D Dublin	COV	0	48	7.9
686	J Aloisi	COV	0	13	6.4
612	D Sturridge	DER	0	22	6.6
625	D Burton	DER	0	18	5.3
694	P Wanchope	DER	0	28	6.8
696	M Christie	DER	0	0	5.0
628	D Cadamarteri	EVE	0	16	5.3
675	I Bakayoko	EVE	0	6	6.7
677	F Jeffers	EVE	0	7	5.1
702	D Ferguson	EVE	0	18	7.5
661	C Wijnhard	LEE	0	10	6.8
662	J F Hasselbaink	LEE	2	53	8.1
671	A Smith	LEE	3	18	6.1
621	S Wilson	LEI	0	0	5.0
622	E Heskey	LEI	0	19	6.8
626	A Cottee	LEI	3	17	5.4
656	A Cunningham	LEI	0	0	6.1
657	I Marshall	LEI	0	0	5.7
699	G Fenton	LEI	0	0	5.2
618	K Riedle	LIV	0	17	7.7
619	S Dundee	LIV	0	0	7.0
620	R Fowler	LIV	0	42	9.4
690	M Owen	LIV	0	46	10.5
640	O G Solskjaer	MAN	0	30	8.1
641	A Cole	MAN	0	49	8.7
649	E Sheringham	MAN	0	0	7.6
609	B Deane	MID	0	17	6.5
611	H Ricard	MID	0	31	6.6
613	M Beck	MID	0	17	6.2
615	A Armstrong	MID	0	0	6.0
653	A Campbell	MID	0	0	5.1
667	A Andersson	NEW	0	3	6.7
670	A Shearer	NEW	0	33	10.1
676	L Saha	NEW	0	5	6.2
627	M Harewood	NOT	0	5	5.1
629	N Shipperley	NOT	0	2	6.5
630	P van Hooijdonk	NOT	0	19	7.8
634	J-C Darcheville	NOT	0	5	6.1
635	D Freedman	NOT	0	16	6.3
659	R Humphreys	SHE	0	3	5.3
660	A Quinn	SHE	0	0	5.0
663	F Sanetti	SHE	0	0	5.9
664	A Booth	SHE	0	24	6.5
666	P Di Canio	SHE	0	11	7.1
638	M Hughes	SOU	0	2	6.5
665	D Hirst	SOU	0	0	6.1
703	E Ostenstad	SOU	0	26	6.9
704	J Beattie	SOU	0	15	5.2
706	S Basham	SOU	0	3	5.0
707	H Kachloul	SOU	3	15	5.1
650	C Armstrong	TOT	5	25	7.1
658	L Ferdinand	TOT	0	11	8.1
687	S Iversen	TOT	3	15	6.4
688	R Allen	TOT	0	0	5.2
603	I Wright	WES	0	24	7.8
614	J Hartson	WES	0	20	8.2
643	S Abou	WES	0	0	5.6
644	P Kitson	WES	0	9	6.3
672	C Leaburn	WIM	0	8	5.5
681	J Euell	WIM	0	28	5.4
700	M Gayle	WIM	5	38	5.8
701	E Ekoku	WIM	3	12	6.0
705	C Cort	WIM	0	3	5.3

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Court of Appeal — Law Report March 9 1999 — Queen's Bench Division

Steep staircase not a nuisance

Regina v Bristol City Council, Ex parte Everett

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Mummery and Lord Justice Buxton

[Judgment February 26]

The power conferred on local authorities by Part III of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to abate statutory nuisances did not extend to cases where the state of the premises was such that there was a likelihood of an accident causing personal injury.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by Sandra Everett from the dismissal by Mr Justice Richards (*The Times* May 27, 1998) of her application for judicial review of a decision by Bristol City Council to withdraw on December 9, 1996 an abatement notice dated February 21, 1994 and served in respect of statutory nuisance at 14 Bannerman Road, Easton, Bristol.

Section 79 of the 1990 Act provides: "(1) ... the following matters constitute 'statutory nuisances' for the purposes of this part, that is to say - (a) any premises in such a state as to be prejudicial to health...

"(7) In this Part ... 'prejudicial to health' means injurious, or likely to cause injury to health."

Mr Nigel Pleming, QC and Mr Martin Westgate for the applicant; Mr Timothy Straker, QC and Mr Ranjit Bhose for the council.

LORD JUSTICE MUMMERY said the principal issue was whether a steep internal staircase in a nineteenth-century two-bedroom terraced house was in such a state as to be "injurious or likely to cause injury to health".

The judge had held that the council had no power to serve the abatement notice on the housing association which owned the property on the complaint of its tenant, the applicant.

He also held that, as the state of the staircase was not capable of falling within section 79(1)(a) of the 1990 Act, the abatement notice was not valid and even if it was that the council was entitled to withdraw it.

Mr Pleming had argued for an "updating construction", recognising that the acceptable level of harm and the acceptable level of risk changed with time.

The logic of his arguments would have been more difficult to resist had the function of the court been to construct a fresh, comprehensive and rational system for protecting public welfare.

But they had less cogency within the less ambitious confines of judicial interpretation of statutory provisions which, when restated by Parliament in the 1990 Act, repeated identical expressions which had been used and defined in the earlier public health legislation, and which had also been the subject of judicial interpretation settled for over a century.

The judge was right in holding that the kind of problem raised by the steep internal staircase, with its attendant dangers of accident or physical injury, did not fall within the category of injury addressed by Part III of the 1990 Act, when properly interpreted in the context of the earlier statutory provisions.

As the judge had said, the problem of accidental physical injury existed as much in the mid-nineteenth century as it did today. But it was not the problem at which those statutory provisions and their predecessors were directed.

Mr Straker's review of the legislative history had shown that the expression "injurious or likely to cause injury to health" had been repeatedly used by Parliament in the context of what had been characterised as "sanitary statutes".

There were distinct statutory provisions relating to dangerous and dilapidated buildings, such as were now to be found in the Building Act 1984, the Housing Act 1985, the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 and the Defective Premises Act 1972.

The distinction was reflected in the case law.

When restating the law of statutory nuisances in the 1990 Act Parliament had used the same expression "injury to health" that it had used in the earlier legislation. That expression had been interpreted and applied by the courts for over a century in a sense which did not cover accidental physical injury.

In those circumstances it was probable that Parliament intended

(a) to produce the same result in similar cases under Part III of the 1990 Act as had been produced under the equivalent provisions of the earlier public health Acts and

(b) to leave the risk of injury by accident to be dealt with by local authorities under other available statutory powers in measures such as the Building Act 1984 and the building regulations.

As to the council's power to withdraw the abatement notice, if the judge was wrong, which he was not, on the main point, there was no error in his conclusion that the council had an implied power to do so which it had exercised lawfully.

Lord Justice Buxton gave a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Hirst agreed with both.

Solicitors: Bobbetts Mackan, Bristol; Mr Dale Collins, Bristol.

Limit to exercise of power

Regina v Commissioners of Inland Revenue, Ex parte Newfields Developments Ltd

Before Mr Justice Moses

[Judgment February 17]

For the purposes of determining the amount of small companies tax relief to which a company was entitled under section 13 of the Income and Corporations Taxes Act 1988, the power of the Inland Revenue to attribute to a person the rights and powers of an associate of his over a company under section 416(6) of that Act was not an unfettered one, but had to be exercised or refrained from where it would result in that company and another being deemed as under the control of that same person and associated with each other.

A person could control a company for the purposes of section 13 of the 1988 Act even if he had no interest in or derived no benefit from it.

Mr Justice Moses so held in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing an application by Newfields Development Ltd for judicial review of the decision of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, on September 22, 1997, that they had no discretion in determining whether to exercise the power under section 416(6) of the 1988 Act to attribute to a person the rights and powers of his associates over a company.

Section 416 of the 1988 Act provides:

"(6) ... there may also be attributed to any person all the rights and powers of any ... associate of his or of any two or more associates of his, including those attributed to a company or associate under subsection (5) above, but not those attributed to an associate under this subsection; and such attributions shall be made under this subsection as will result in the company being treated as under the control of five or fewer participators if it can so be treated."

Mr Kevin Prosser, QC and Miss Elizabeth Wilson for the applicant; Mr Timothy Brennan for the Revenue.

MR JUSTICE MOSES said that the profits of the applicant company were eligible under section 13 of the 1988 Act for small companies tax relief, but that relief was halved where the applicant had an associated company.

Section 13(4) provided that a company was associated to another where both were under the control of the same person(s) as defined by section 416 of that Act.

The applicant company was controlled by trustees of the late Mr Walker's will trust, and Lawrec Properties Ltd was controlled by the trustees of Mr Walker's discretionary trust.

Mrs Walker, the widow of Mr Walker, was the settlor of the discretionary trust and had a life interest under the will trust, which meant that the trustees of both trusts were her associates.

The Inland Revenue found that it was bound by section 416(6) of the 1988 Act to exercise the power to attribute to her the rights and powers of her associates, the trustees, where that would achieve the result that both companies were rendered as under her control, and thereby associated, and that it did not have an unfettered discretion in the exercise of that power.

The applicant argued that it did, and that the power ought not to be exercised because it was unfair to regard Mrs Walker as having control over Lawrec Properties when she had no interest or could derive no benefit from it.

His Lordship said that the provisions of section 416 formed part of the code under Part XI of the 1988 Act dealing with close companies, defined as those under the control of five or fewer participators.

The words of section 416(6) that "such attributions shall be made under this subsection as will result in the company being treated as under the control of five or fewer participators if it can so be treated" meant that the power of attribution, in relation to close companies, ought to be exercised or refrained from for the statutory purpose of achieving the result that the company was treated as a close company.

Those words did not apply in relation to small companies under section 13 of the 1988 Act, but in importing the statutory concept of control from section 416 into section 13 of that Act, Parliament did not alter the nature or character of the power to one unfettered by a statutory purpose.

The purpose in relation to section 13 of that Act was to identify whether the two companies were under the control of the same person.

The power had to be exercised where it would result in both companies being under the control of Mrs Walker, and refrained from if it achieved the opposite.

The concept of that control was not restricted to those with an interest in or who might benefit from a company.

Solicitors: Allen & Overy; Solicitor, Inland Revenue.

Extrinsic evidence not admissible

Woolls v Powling

Before Lord Justice Hirst and Mr Justice Cazalet

[Judgment February 10]

Where a conveyance was clear as to the boundary line between two properties, extrinsic evidence about the boundary line was not admissible. A plan of the land stated to be "for the purposes of identification only" could be used to determine where the boundary lay.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal from Mr Recorder Belben in Gloucester County Court dismissing the claim of the plaintiff, Douglas Edric Woolls, to a narrow strip of land between his property at Lofthouse, Upper Bourne, Brimscombe, Gloucestershire, and that of the defendants, George James Powling, Elizabeth Robina Powling and Mark Stephen Powling.

Mr Charles Goodall for Mr Woolls; Mr John Virgo for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE CAZALET said the recorder had admitted evidence of oral exchanges at the pre-contract site meeting between plaintiff and defendants in 1972. The plaintiff contended that the recorder had misdirected himself in holding that the boundary line in the conveyance was imprecise.

The recorder had based that decision on the fact that the parcels clause in the conveyance was expressed in general terms and the plan attached to the conveyance was said to be "for the purposes of identification only" and was inaccurate in that it showed a right of way reserved by the plaintiff running over land which he claimed to have retained.

On that basis, purporting to follow *Willson v Greene* ([1971] 1 WLR 635), he had admitted evidence of the circumstances in which the conveyance was made.

His Lordship referred to *Wiggington and Milner Ltd v Winster Engineering Ltd* ([1978] 1 WLR 1462). In that case Lord Justice Buckley had held that so long as the plan did not come into conflict with anything which was explicit in the description of the parcels, the fact that it was said to "for the purposes of identification" did not exclude it from consideration in solving problems left undecided by the explicit terms of the parcels clauses.

The recorder had erred by stepping outside the terms of the conveyance which were clear as to where the boundary lay and were therefore definitive.

Lord Justice Hirst agreed.

Solicitors: Luttons Dunford, Gloucester; Winterbothams, Gloucester.

Whether price includes VAT

Lancaster v Bird

Before Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Chadwick

[Judgment November 19]

While there was a term implied by custom for contracts among the building trade that a price quoted for building work was exclusive of value-added tax, that custom did not apply to contracts with consumers and the inclusion or exclusion of VAT depended on the terms of such contracts.

The Court of Appeal so stated when dismissing an application by Mr James Bird for leave to appeal against a decision of Mr Assistant Recorder Peter Atherton at Carlisle County Court on May 29, 1998 ordering judgment for the plaintiff Mr Ian Callander Lancaster for £4,367.42 damages for breach of an agreement to supply and erect an agricultural shed at the plaintiff's farm and dismissing the defendant's counterclaim.

Mr Mark Watson-Gandy for Mr Bird; Mr Lancaster was not represented and did not appear.

LORD JUSTICE CHADWICK said that the question whether the price for a building contract was inclusive or exclusive of VAT turned on the terms of the particular contract. It would normally be made expressly clear.

It was in the interests of the builder to make it clear because, as between the builder and the Commissioners for Customs and Excise, the provisions in section 19(1) and (2) of the Value Added Tax 1994 required the recipient of payment to account for VAT on the basis that the consideration that he received was such amount as equalled the value of the goods or services provided plus VAT.

If the builder failed to make it plain to the employer that he was stipulating payment of VAT in addition to the contract price, he would be left to account to the revenue for the VAT out of what he received. *Tony Cox (Dismantlers) Ltd v Jim 5 Ltd* ((1996) 13 Const LJ 209) illustrated that there might well be a custom in the construction industry that prices quoted were exclusive of VAT.

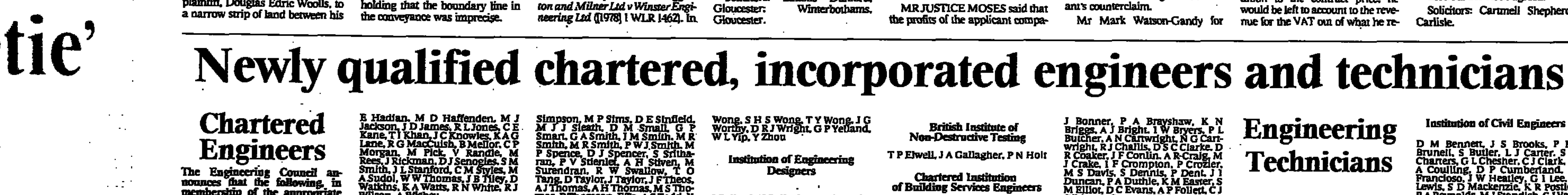
There was no evidence in the present case that on a contract between a small builder seeking to be paid in cash and a part-time farmer it was an implied custom that VAT would be paid on top of the cash payments.

The officious bystander when asked whether the parties to a such a transaction intended that VAT should be paid on top of the cash payments, would say: "No, of course that was not the intention of the parties".

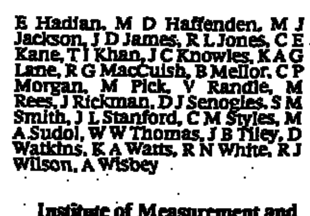
It had not been established that there was an express or implied term that VAT should be paid on top of the contract price.

Lord Justice Roch agreed.

Solicitors: Cartmell Shepherd, Carlisle.



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E C P Abbott, D W Baxter, M J Berry, S Huntley, J A Monaghan, D N Rumbold, J S Tripney, K P Wong

Institute of Highway Incorporated Engineers

M Allen, A Buckland, C A Franklin, P W Hedley, J M Hind, C P Hodgson, M O Hopwood, A J Jasper, M Kerridge, A J Kirby, A J Ley, N Lodge, K A Mitchell, A Page-Dove, B A Phillips, J M Phillips, E L Pleasant, I E Russell, C J Sanderson, P H Smith, S J Spender, M R Stoddard, D P Wilshaw

Institute of Marine Engineers

O E Akaji, M Anderson, J I Assam, J S M Awadallah, N Badizadegan, R A Baggett, V Baran, A R Bevans, A M Broadbelt, M A Bushby, A W Byrne, T H Chong, G C Colvin, G C Cooper, D A Cox, I C Ezeala, L Harvey, J Hendry, R J Hiscock, P J Holvey, J C Horn, J S B Johnstone, I D Kaye, M Lateef, J W Mell, S W Metcalfe, D C Milne, D F Moffat, R M Paddock, E A S Pinto, M I Pirzada, V Puri, T Ravikularam, B Roberts, R Sangster, I M Simmonds, S J Smart, M S Stott, A Sy, A N S Tate, C W Thompson, R Tynemouth, J Wall, M E Woodacre

Institute of Materials

P J Moore

Institute of Measurement and Control

R A Whitehead

Institute of Road Transport Engineers

C S Barnett, P A Croxon, G R Fleming, G A Hutcheon, R S Kerr, K Y M Kwan, N A Watters, J V Woodman

Institution of Chemical Engineers

D H Smith

Institution of Civil Engineers

A M Barwise, N A Beckett, D J Brend, A G Burford, L Clark, M A Clewer, H Collier, D R Cooper, C N Cowperthwaite, A C Croft, D H Cunliffe, C R Dawson, J A H Drummond, J L Earl, J Faure, A E Greenstreet, M A Hinton, T S Ingram, C R Jenkins, A O Katab, M J Kenwright, P D Knight, S C Laird, A Lane, C M Lees, A J Leonard, M D Lewis, S A Mackenzie, S J Marsland, D E Ogden, S Parrish, J M Roberts, D P Rooney, T M Segasby, V J Shade, P A Sharkey, E M Spencer, A J Sutton, S G Thomas, D J Viles, A J Wheele, B G Williams, S Wilson, J T Wolstencroft, E C Woodgate

Institution of Engineering Designers

S Ayre, S M Benfield, D M T Blakemore, L Q Eunson, K W French, T Galloway, R Hockley, S P Kirkwood, J F Mennie, B H Nurcombe, S C Potter, D J Ratcliffe, W Reid, M A Sainsbury

Institution of Gas Engineers

D C Abbott, L Harris, S Lindsay, W A Thompson

Institution of Incorporated Engineers

A P Akadi, J T Alexander, M Allison, J P Backhouse, M Baillie, C W Bandoo, P J Barlow, M W Betteley, J Bonner, P A Brayshaw, K N Briggs, A J Bright, I W Bryers, P L Butcher, A N Cartwright, N G Cartwright, R J Challis, D S C Clarke, D R Coaker, J F Conlin, A R-Craig, M J Crake, I F Crompton, P Crozier, M S Davis, S Dennis, P Dent, J I Duncan, P A Duthie, K M Easter, S M Elliot, D C Evans, A P Follett, C J Gildea, L Gomes, P C Greenwood, G D Harvey, W D Haylock, V P Hemmings, G J Heywood, K F Ho, R W Hodges, K J Horner, A Hutchinson, M Jelavic, G D Keeble, E Kendrick, P P P Keyland, M M Khan, L H Kho, R J Kneale, H Knight, D I Kramrisch, P K Y Kwan, M D Linney, G M Loft, S A Long, A J Macdonald, A Macdonald, J MacIsaac, L A Marris, J M Mart, C J Mason, P Matthews, D L McCulloch, I M McLaren, T A Mills, P J Monk, M W Moore, S Moore, R S Moyses, R G Pearson, T C P S Perera, S E Peschel, W W Pheasey, W L Port, N S Rabbets, R K Rainey, P A Richards, G N Rigg, M J Roberts, J A Rostron, G M Ryans, A L Scott, K J Shaw, M A Simpson, J M Smith, H N Socha, A Stevenson, A W Taylor, J W Thomson, M A Traynor, S C Tunstall, D S Walker, D M Webb, J D Wilson, B C Wood, K Yews

Institution of Incorporated Executive Engineers

M Bull, C Dunn, A M Garland, C P Hodgson, A D Jordan, A J M Kaye, C A Kilcullen, M Patterson, E H Pegram, D I Rogers, R D Shannon, M A Shearman, R E J Thorne

Institution of Mining and Metallurgy

P J Gray

Institution of Nuclear Engineers

M O Brown, D C Hay, S M Koncz, M A Wake

Institution of Plant Engineers

R M M Chalabi, G A Clark, R Clarke, I Clement, S P Downie, J J Hearn, S J Malcolmson, A Mustard, K R Nicholson, D J K Rix, P A Shephard, S D Taylor, P J Wakelin, K V Wiseman

Institution of Structural Engineers

C Millard

Royal Aeronautical Society

M J S Chalcraft, M A Lewis, P A Mansell, N D Townsend, S A Withall

Welding Institute

R A Mayoh, B F Spafford, M P Sweeney

Engineering Technicians

The Engineering Council announces that the following, in membership of the appropriate engineering Institution, have qualified as Engineering Technicians entitling them to use the designatory letters EngTech after their names:

Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers

A R J Ashby, M Ashgar, P A Baker, B E Breslin, G R Gale, R E James, S L Keast, E S H Kerr, A Martin, N J Mason

Institute of Healthcare Engineering & Estate Management

R McCulloch, K P Reynolds, D C Secker, P Shepherd

Institute of Highway Incorporated Engineers

J R Courtney, P A Fenton, M S James, R J Kingston

Institute of Marine Engineers

K A Amogu, M S Chowdhury, P S Headspith, L A O'Reilly, R J Prideaux, E Shayel, A J Stubbs, D S Warman, J G Weeks

Institute of Quality Assurance

I Cartwright

Institute of Road Transport Engineers

R Allan, S W Atkinson, L Bladen, S J Blake, M Brady, S Brew, L J Cooper, C E Cowin, G C Davies, P T Davies, M H Elliott, G I Farnill, G M Forshaw, R G Gandy, D I Gent, K Girubenddra, A Goodier, R A Gower, C M Hamlet, C P Hawkins, M J Hicks, J M Hirst, R J Jayesingha, P R Kent, M Lynch, P J Martin, R Matthews, J T Moore, M Mulcahy, J O Murchie, D S Murphy, A Needham, P S Nicholson, G Ollis, T W Painting, M Parbery, K Peacock, D A Rogers, M M Scully, E R Sebright, B J Skilton, M G Smith, N L Snow, M Squires, P A Thomas, C Thompson, J M Walley

Institution of Civil Engineers

D M Bennett, J S Brooks, P M Brunell, S Butler, L J Carter, S J Charters, G L Chesher, C J Clark, E A Coulling, D P Cumberland, E Francioso, J W Heatley, G I Lee, I Lewis, S D Mackenzie, K R Postle, R A Reynolds, M J Standish, C J Vallis, S P Webb

Institution of Engineering Designers

S M Naylor, P G Southon

Institution of Fire Engineers

T Owens

Institution of Gas Engineers

H Buchanan, G Colson, H S Gill, M J Kitchen

Institution of Incorporated Engineers

S M Alderton, M W Allen, S A Annetts, D W Baber, R D Brown, P J Bunning, S M Cobb, K T G Conway, R J C Day, R P Degg, S M Foreman, P D Frear, F Gavci, C J Grall, K J Grant, D T J Gray, S W Grieve, S E Hargreaves, P J Harley, C D Harrison, K P Hewkin, O W Lloyd, K I Mackay, C R Mahoney, S T McBride, J G McMillan, M S Mele, A J Miller, M G Neish, R C T Real Mism, D Ross, M L Row, J S Rutherford, A Sayers, N Silver, K A Smith, T J Stokes, A J Szczelkun, B Watts

Institution of Incorporated Executive Engineers

K Bagley, N J Collins, K W Dearmun, F C Ho, P S R Holmes, S M Jepps, R P Redfearn, C A Thomas

Institution of Nuclear Engineers

F C Alexander, G P Briggs, R M Ledger, S McGhie, D I Smith

Institution of Plant Engineers

R W Brettle, B C Calvert, J Keenan, M D Mackay, C Marshall, J Nutting, M E Pritchard, T G Tomlinson, S L Wright

Royal Aeronautical Society

S S G Neighbour

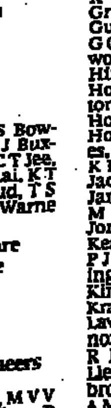
Welding Institute

G P Butler, M G Holifield, J McBride, F A S Nolan, D Rooke, A S Spencer

MARCH 9 1999

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SAILING

America's Cup hope hangs in balance

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THE chances of a British yacht taking part in the 2000 America's Cup in Auckland this year remain in the balance as the Spirit of Britain syndicate continues a desperate search for commercial backing.

The syndicate, which has registered an entry into the Louis Vuitton Challenger Selection Series that begins in Auckland in October, is in the extraordinary situation of having started to build a multimillion pound America's Cup class yacht, even though it is not certain that the funds will be in place.

Professor Andrew Graves of Bath University, the chairman of the syndicate, said yesterday that, contrary to speculation, his efforts have not collapsed. He remains optimistic that a British crew can take part in the Cup for the first time in 12 years.

He said it was hoped that work on one Ian Howlett-designed hull at Portland in Dorset and would be finished by July. However, up to £2 million is still required to finish the boat and Graves acknowledged that the plug could be pulled if the money is not found. "We could stop it," he said.

Graves still believes that Lawrie Smith will be able to lead a crew against up to 11 challengers. "I think we have a much better than 50-50 chance but, as you know, these things swing very quickly," he said. "It doesn't take much to take people's confidence away. But we're confident that we have a product that will be successful and will build for the future, not just for 2000."

He went on to reiterate his belief that British sailing must be represented at what is regarded by many as the most prestigious competition in world sailing. "It is absolutely vital for British sailing, because this is the blue riband event," Graves said. "If we are to be taken seriously as a global sailing nation, we have to be at the America's Cup. I think it would be extraordinary if British industry and commerce couldn't find the ability to support such a challenge, particularly as we are in such great shape on the technical and sailing side."

While commercial backers in the United States have been found to support five challengers and there are strong syndicates from France, Italy, Spain, Japan and, almost certainly, Switzerland, the going in Britain has been tough. After three years of searching, the campaign is still struggling to get off the ground, while several potential rivals have been testing in Auckland for months.

The Spirit effort appeared to be coming to a successful conclusion over Christmas until a group of potential sponsors turned out not to be prepared to commit financially and dropped out. Since then the search has concentrated on private individuals and banks willing to underwrite costs in advance of a major sponsor signing on the dotted line.

Graves blames what he called the poor state of the British economy, the economic crisis in Asia and the limited appeal of New Zealand, remote in both distance and time from Europe, for the reluctance of British companies to back his effort.

□ In the Around Alone Race, Mike Garside, in *Magellan Alpha*, yesterday crossed the finish line at Punte del Este to take second place in Class 2 for the third leg. Garside finished 16 hours behind JP Mouligne of France, in *Cray Valley*, the class leader, who has won all three legs so far and has an overall lead on Garside of almost eight days.



Jana Novotna in action during her 6-0, 6-3 victory over Mary Joe Fernandez in the Evert Cup in Indian Wells yesterday. The men's competition, the Newsweek Champions' Cup, was due to get under way last night with Greg Rusedski facing Petr Korda. Photograph: Hector Mata

Rios takes his chances on comeback

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN INDIAN WELLS, CALIFORNIA

THE phoney war is over and it is time for the big guns to roll into town for the start of the Newsweek Champions' Cup. Quite what state they are in, though, is anyone's guess. Andre Agassi, seeded No 9, has a tweaked hamstring after his efforts in Scottsdale last week and Marcelo Rios, the sixth seed, is coming to terms with life in a corset as he makes his comeback from a back injury that has kept him off the courts for two months.

He has been practising gently for the past couple of days, trying light workouts on the hard courts, the clay and, yesterday, even on the grass. Each time he straps on the large plastic support that resembles the body armour of a Roman centurion, wrapping it around his hips and waist. Once inside, the movement is limited and he seems unwilling to push himself too far.

Rios won here last year and went on to take the Lipton title immediately afterwards, so to lose early on at one or both events this time around could cost him his place in the top ten. Not that he seems too concerned. "I'm going to try to play, start slow, just try to rally some balls," he said. "It's bad luck that the first tournament I play is the one I won last year, but I can't do anything about it."

The mere fact that he is here at all is enough to make Rios happy. The stress fracture of a vertebra in the lower back could have taken longer to heal and now Rios is looking to reduce his schedule to keep it from happening again. "It was five weeks before I could play any tennis and I was just doing exercise and trying to recover," he said. "But I was really slow, I couldn't hit any balls or even move."

What appears to worry him most is the state of his golf game. Unable to play for months, his handicap has suffered and he is wary of returning to the tee. "I'm really kind of scared coming back again. I think it's going to take a while," he said.

It is not just Rios who has his eyes on the rankings — four of the top men could overtake Pete Sampras for the No 1 spot this week, even if the calculations are complex. Yevgeny Kafelnikov needs to reach the semi-finals to go top, Alex Corretja and Carlos Moya would have to reach the final and Pat Rafter needs to win the title. The present incumbent is already here and appears to be in remarkably jovial mood — by his standards — but not enough to change his mind about the Davis Cup.

While Britain ponders the possibility of victory against the United States next month and has at least the backbone of the team in place — Henman, Rusedski and A. N. Other — the Americans seem to be overwhelmed by apathy. Sampras and Agassi have ruled themselves out and Michael Chang says that it would take a miracle for him to play in Birmingham.

Jim Courier, a possible contender depending on how he is feeling and on his form this week, has made his opinions on Sampras's decision clear. "I find it ironic," he said. "I think 'what are you playing for?' Did the public get that excited when he won Wimbledon for the fifth time?

"They certainly weren't in America and his success didn't get published in any major publication in America, but he seems to find that important. And if you are playing for media coverage, I think you are playing for the wrong reasons."

Rusedski was due to take on Petr Korda last night. The last time the two met was at Battersea Park a couple of weeks ago and, even if that was indoors and on home territory, he should get a similar favourable result.

LINKS
WEBSITE:
www.champions-cup.com
TELEVISION:
Eurosport, 6.45pm (live)

SNOOKER

Impressive Pang heads for meeting with Ebdon

FROM PHIL YATES IN SHANGHAI

THE opening day of the China International at the JC Mandarin Hotel here was notable for exceptional crowd interest, a reported black market in tickets, and for a high-quality performance by Pang Wei Guo, a local wild-card entry.

Not since 1990, when Stephen Hendry beat Dennis Taylor in the final of the Asian Open in Guangzhou, has China hosted a world-ranking tournament. During the intervening years, the popularity of the game has boomed and this was reflected in healthy crowds for all three sessions.

There was even a home victory to cheer, or to clap in the case of these most polite of spectators, when Pang, who made such a good impression at the 1996 World Cup, performed superbly to beat Peter Lines, of Leeds, 5-1 in the wild card play-off round.

Pang, a bespectacled left-hander who is arguably China's best player, impressively secured a meeting with Peter Ebdon in the last 32 by compiling breaks of 63, 42, 104, 50 and 79. Indeed, he should have been joined in the first round proper by his compatriot, Zhang Xai. Zhang led Anthony Davies 4-1 but, with a match against Hendry at stake, collapsed as the winning line approached.

Ronnie O'Sullivan reached the last 16 by beating Bradley Jones 5-3 but a cavalier attitude, which bordered on the reckless, demonstrated his disenchantment. O'Sullivan pulled away from a score of 3-3 with two rapidly-compiled breaks of 55 and 81. "I'm not really into it to be honest, I'm just going through the motions," O'Sullivan said.

Tony Drago's hopes of remaining amongst the elite top 16 in the world rankings next season suffered further serious damage when he was whitewashed 5-0 by Paul Davies in only 76 minutes. Drago was also beaten in the first round of the Thailand Masters in Bangkok last week.

Results, page 49

BOWLS

Foster surges out of sight

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

PAUL FOSTER, the 1998 world indoor singles champion, produced a devastating spell of scoring at Bournemouth yesterday, when he surged from 6-6 into a virtually unbeatable 20-6 lead over the Welsh champion, Mark Anstey, from Merthyr Tydfil, and earned a place in the British indoor singles final.

Anstey kept Foster waiting for another six ends, however, as he closed to 20-14, at which stage Foster lost his patience, switched to firm tactics, and ditched the jack for the winning single. In the final today, Foster meets the English champion, Jamie Mills, from the South Forest Club, who beat Paul Daly, of Belfast, 21-15.

Steve Ovett's nephew, Ollie Ovett, broke into an athletic trot after his last bowl in the Under-25 singles semi-final against Simon Martin, Daly's Belfast clubmate. The bowl was worth following. With it Ovett, like Foster, ditched the jack, and turned a difficult adverse position into two shots — enough to give him a 21-8 victory and set up a final encounter with Darren Burnett, the world junior champion.

The most outrageous escape was effected by three Devonians, Roy Johnson, Danny Denison and John Wickham, who are representing Newton Abbot's Teignbridge club, even though Denison and Wickham now belong to Torquay United.

The Teignbridge trio were never ahead at any stage during the match, but a count of six on the twelfth end, and two successive late singles, enabled them to tie, 19-19, after the allotted 18 ends, and they grabbed a last single on the tense extra end. Graham Dennis and Martyn Roberts, the Welsh pairs champions, defeated their English counterparts, Alan Springell and Gary Grace, 28-15.

SEMI-FINALS: Singles: J Mills (South Forest, England) bt P Daly (Belfast, Ireland) 21-15; P Foster (Irvin, Scotland) bt M Anstey (Merthyr Tydfil (Wales) 21-14. **Pairs:** G Dennis and M Roberts (Llanelli, Wales) bt A Springell and G Grace (Handy Cross, England) 28-15; J Flannagan and I Sneddon (Stirling, Scotland) bt P Daly and J Ross (Belfast, Ireland) 20-19. **Triples:** P Brown, G and G Campbell (Prestwick, Scotland) bt R Corry, M McPeak, D Corkill (Belfast, Ireland) 25-17, R Johnson, D Denison, J Wickham (Teignbridge, England) bt K Forey, N Leigh, J Webley (Cardiff, Wales) 20-19 after extra end. **Fours:** T Mitchell, P Talbot, D Robinson, B Morley (Nottingham, England) bt K Nibloe, P Brown, G and G Campbell (Prestwick, Scotland) 21-13; J Forey, R Morgan, J Webley, N Leigh (Cardiff, Wales) bt R Corry, M McPeak, J Nutt, R Battersby (Belfast, Ireland) 23-7

Irvine's moment of triumph dismissed as flash in the pan

Kevin Eason discovers a reluctance to accept the outcome of the first grand prix of 1999 at face value

JEAN TODT is easily irritated when his strategy to bring Ferrari the Formula One world championship is questioned. He has got the Italian team to within touching distance of the crown in the past two years by using Michael Schumacher as his point of attack and, when Eddie Irvine rejoins his team-mates later this month, he will discover that nothing has been changed by his victory in the Australian Grand Prix.

Todt, Ferrari's team manager, had nothing but praise for Irvine yesterday, acknowledging that his maiden win in Melbourne on Sunday will help ease the frustration of a driver whose role for three years has been as supporting act to Schumacher's title challenges.

However, Todt is nothing if not a pragmatist and knows that one victory does not necessarily make a champion in Formula One. John Watson, the last winning Irish driver, was among the first to press Todt to change his strategy and allow Irvine off his leash, starting at the next race in Brazil in five weeks' time.

He said: "He must encourage the team to be more equal in their treatment of him because that will make Irvine even better than he already is. I think the bias between Schumacher and Irvine will have to become less and Ferrari will have to support Eddie more."

Todt listened to the arguments, but the Frenchman simply pointed out: "The championship is just starting. The next appointment is in Brazil and I hope Eddie can win there. If he wins the next five or six races and is more than 50 points ahead of the other drivers, then somebody can raise the question of our strategy. We are always under pressure at Ferrari but we have to live with it, and the only answer is to get results. This was a very good result for Eddie, but tomorrow is another day."

Todt: no strategy changes

Schumacher can rarely have suffered a day like Sunday when his luck spiralled from bad to atrocious. It began when he could not engage first gear at the start, continued with a puncture and more gearbox problems and ended without a championship point.

Indeed, the chances of all three of last season's leading drivers breaking down again in the same race must be negligible. David Coulthard, whose McLaren Mercedes lasted only 13 laps, believes that Irvine has had his day of glory and that the real battle remains between him, his team-mate, Mika Hakkinen, and Schumacher.

"In many ways, it ended up a perfect result for us because Michael didn't win any points and it is Michael who presents the main threat," Coulthard said. "With us not finishing, the only bad news was that Ferrari got ten points in the constructors' championship. I don't think that Eddie will be able to sustain a season-long challenge."

So it seems that Irvine's victory, immensely satisfying though it was for a talented driver who had waited 82 races to get to the top step of the podium, is being regarded for the moment as irrelevant to the real issues of the season.

BADMINTON

Ong leads list of casualties

INJURIES have deprived the Yonex All-England championships of two of the leading contenders in its centenary tournament which starts at the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham tomorrow (Richard Eaton writes).

Ong Ewe Hock, the runner-up last year, has withdrawn with a badly swollen thigh and Yong Hock Kin, the Indonesian Open champion, has pulled out because of a virus that has been spreading around his home near Kuala Lumpur and is said to have caused as many as 30 deaths.

Both Malaysians were seeded and had been hoping to challenge for the title held by Sun Jun, of China. Another withdrawal yesterday was Darren Hall, of England, the ten-times national champion, who has been hampered by a persistent ankle injury.

SNOW REPORTS

SKI CLUB

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Runs to Resort	Conditions Off/p	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
Andorra								
Soldeu	100	110	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-5	6/3
Austria								
Obergurgl	110	350	Good	Open	Powder	Fair	-3	7/3
Soll	80	210	Fair	Open	Powder	Fine	0	7/3
St Anton	110	550	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-3	7/3
Canada								
Lake Louise	150	169	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-5	7/3
France								
Alpe d'Huez	190	350	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-1	8/3
Avoriaz	300	320	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-3	8/3
La Clusaz	110	330	Good	Open	Varied	Snow	1	8/3
La Plagne	295	325	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-9	8/3
La Tania	181	302	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	-4	6/3
Les Arcs	195	346	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-8	7/3
Tignes	178	280	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-1	8/3
Val Thorens	220	370	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-6	8/3
Valmorel	155	330	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	2	8/3
Italy								
Cervinia	160	280	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-2	8/3
Cortina	50	120	Good	Hard	Varied	Sun	-8	7/3
Livigno	122	228	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-1	6/3
M di Campiglio	70	140	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	5	7/3
Norway								
Geilo	100	110	Good	Open	Varied	Snow	[illegible]	8/3
Switzerland								
Crans Montana	170	330	Good	Open	[illegible]	Sun	-2	7/3
Grindelwald	100	330	Good	Open	Heavy	Cloud	2	6/3
Klosters	160	300	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-5	7/3
Murren	120	400	Good	Closed	Powder	Cloud	-9	6/3
St Moritz	95	210	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-2	6/3
Verbier	85	200	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	3	8/3
Villars	90	270	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-6	6/3
Zermatt	146	320	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	3	6/3
United States								
Aspen	130	155	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-1	06/03
Deer Valley	215	230	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	0	07/03

http://www.skiclub.co.uk L = lower slopes; U = upper slopes

POOLS FORECAST

Saturday March 13

Coupon no. fixture, forecast

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP
1 Chelsea v West Ham 1
2 Coventry v Blackburn 1
3 Derby v Liverpool X
4 Everton v Arsenal 2
5 Leicester v Charlton X
6 Newcastle v Man Utd 1
7 Sheff Wed v Leeds 2
8 Tottenham v A Villa 1
9 Wimbledon v Nott'm F X

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION
10 Birm'ham v W Brom 1
11 Bolton v QPR 1
12 Bradford C v Norwich 1
13 Bury v Barnsley 2
14 Grimsby v Sund'land 2
15 Ipswich v Hud'field 1
16 Oxford v Watford 2
17 Port Vale v Stockport 1
18 Portsmouth v Crystal Palace X
19 Swindon v Crewe 1
20 Tranmere v Sheff Utd X
21 Wolves v Bristol C 1

SECOND DIVISION
22 Blackpool v Wrexham X
23 Bourn'm'th v Reading 1
24 Lincoln v Chesterfield 2
25 Luton v Stoke X
26 Macclesfield v Colchester 2
27 Man City v Oldham 1
28 Millwall v Walsall X
29 Notts County v York 1
30 Wigan v Gillingham 1
31 Wycombe v Northampton 1

THIRD DIVISION
32 Barnet v Camb Utd 2
33 Brentford v Shrw'bury 1
34 Brighton v Darlington 1
35 Cardiff v Torquay 1
36 Chester v Scunthorpe 2
37 Halifax v Carlisle X
38 Leyton O v Hull 1
39 Mansfield v Rochdale 1

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE
40 *Aberdeen v Celtic 2
41 Dundee U v Hearts 1
42 Dunf'mline v Dundee 1
43 Rangers v Motherwell 1
44 St Johnstone v Kilmarnock 1

FIRST DIVISION
45 Airdrie v Stranraer 1
46 Clydebank v Hibernian 2
47 Falkirk v St Mirren X
48 G Morton v Raith 1

SECOND DIVISION
49 Forfar v Arbroath 2

* pools panel to adjudicate

TREBLE CHANCE (home teams): Derby, Leicester, Wimbledon, Portsmouth, Tranmere, Blackpool, Luton, Millwall, Halifax, Falkirk.

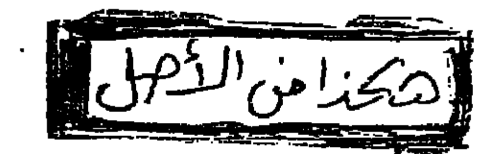
BEST DRAWS: Derby, Leicester, Portsmouth, Tranmere, Luton.

AWAYS: Arsenal, Leeds, Watford, Chesterfield, Cambridge.

HOMES: Chelsea, Coventry, Newcastle, Bolton, Bradford City, Wolves, Notts County, Brighton, Leyton Orient.

FIXED ODDS: Homes: Chelsea, Newcastle, Notts County, Brighton, Leyton Orient. Aways: Arsenal, Leeds, Cambridge. Draws: Derby, Tranmere, Luton.

■ Vince Wright



RACING: TRAINER LINES UP LUCRATIVE PAY-DAY IN SANDOWN HANDICAP HURDLE

JULIAN HERBERT / ALLSPORT



Jurassic Classic and Carl Llewellyn part company at the second last fence in the handicap chase at Fontwell Park yesterday

Imperial mint tempts Pipe

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

BEFORE Martin Pipe shuffles into some kind of order the 131 entries he has made for the meeting at Cheltenham next week, there is the minor matter of the Sunderlands Imperial Cup at Sandown this Saturday — and a possible ante-post gamble.

The two-mile handicap hurdle has proved to be a profitable springboard to Festival glory for the champion trainer over the past decade, and when the entries for the valuable contest were published yesterday it did not require the detective powers of a Sherlock Holmes to work out Pipe's intentions.

Midnight Legend, a Champion Hurdle possible, heads the weights but even if David Nicholson's runner bypasses Esher, the weights will not rise too much as Pipe also has Challenger Du Luc entered in the race.

Best known for his mercurial exploits as a three-mile chaser, the nine-year-old is still rated 145 over the smaller obstacles and his presence at the head of the handicap would ensure a decent racing weight for Pipe's other entries — notably Dr Jazz.

The seven-year-old won over 11 furlongs on the Flat in New Zealand, as well as being successful three times over hurdles. After a six-month break, he made light work of winning on his British debut in heavy ground at Folkestone, before recording a better effort at Newbury four weeks ago when runner-up to The Fly, the Barry Hills-trained hurdling newcomer who was third in the 1997 St Leger.

Pipe has landed the Imperial Cup three times in the past decade and on the last two occasions the winners have followed up within days at Cheltenham, with Olympian (1993) taking the Coral Cup, while 12 months ago Blowing Wind completed a famous double via the County Hurdle. Significantly, Dr Jazz also holds entries at Cheltenham next week in the Citroën Supreme Novices' Hurdle and the Vincent O'Brien County Hurdle, both over two miles.

The sponsor of the race is taking no risks, given Pipe's record in the race. Not only has Sunderlands installed Dr Jazz as 5-1 joint-favourite, but Ballysicyos, who won on his British debut for Pipe two weeks ago at Ludlow, is 6-1. Sunderlands bets: 5-1 Dr Jazz, In Question, 6-1 Ballysicyos, 10-1 Sir Talbot, 11-1 Alabang, Davoski, Serenus, 12-1 Regency Lake, Road Racer, 14-1 bar.

With the start of the turf Flat season just over two weeks away, the owner of Running Stag, trained by Philip Mitchell at Epsom, is offering half of his Dubai World Cup runner for sale — with a $1 million (about £620,000) price tag.

Godolphin is likely to have four runners in the $5 million race run at Nad Al Sheba on March 28, and Simon Crisford confirmed yesterday that Frankie Dettori will ride High-Rise, winner of the Epsom Derby last season.

Meanwhile, the announcement that Anthony Stroud is stepping down as Sheikh Mohammed's racing manager and is not being replaced at Darley Stud underlines the streamlining taking place withing the sheikh's racing empire. It is now clear that the highly successful Godolphin operation will spearhead the Sheikh's racing operation, while Darley Stud will concentrate on breeding.

RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market

QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION CHASE
Cheltenham, March 17

GUIDE TO THE LEADING PRICES

	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Tote
Call Equiname	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Edredon Bleu	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Direct Route	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Klairon Davis	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ask Tom	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Celibate	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hill Society	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lord Dorcet	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Green Green Desert	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cumbrian Challenge	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

THE Queen Mother Champion Chase provides the highlight of the second day of the Cheltenham Festival. A combination of opposable market leaders and lack of strength in depth makes it an excellent race for ante-post backers.

Call Equiname has had just two runs in two seasons, and in spite of his narrow defeat of Get Real in the Victor Chandler Chase on his reappearance at Kempton he has plenty to prove at the highest level. He makes no appeal at 3-1.

Edredon Bleu landed the Grand Annual at last year's Festival, and has made great strides this season, beating Mandys Mantino in impressive style at Sandown last time. However, he is best when allowed to lead from the start and is unlikely to have things all his own way next week.

Direct Route's participation is becoming less likely, as bad weather continues to hold up his preparation, while Ask Tom, for whom Jamie Osborne has been booked, has failed in three previous Festival attempts.

The two that make most appeal are the Irish-trained pair, Klairon Davis and Hill Society. Klairon Davis won the title in 1995, and followed that up with success in this race in 1996. He has finished fourth in the past two Champion Chases on unsuitably fast ground, but showed that he is back to his best with a comfortable win on heavy ground at Leopardstown in January.

However, preference is for Hill Society. He failed by the narrowest margin to beat Champleve in the Arkle last year, in spite of having to concede 8lb to that rival. He has drifted in the betting after three recent defeats, beaten just over a length by Papillon in testing conditions at Naas last time. Granted better ground on the fast-draining Cheltenham track next week, HILL SOCIETY can return to form and is over-priced at 16-1 with Coral.

SEDGEFIELD

THUNDERER
2.00 Tennessee King. 2.30 King Pin. 3.00 Castle Clear. 3.30 Sillars Stalker. 4.00 Corbleu. 4.30 Steelers Dream. 5.00 Saxon Victory.

GOING: SOFT (7.45AM INSPECTION) — SIS

2.00 J WADE HAULAGE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,627: 2m 1f) (13 runners)

1 U000 NOBLE NORMAN 8 (G) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-12 ..... G Lee 47
2 P-P4 TENNESSEE KING 11 (S) T Easterby 9-11-11 ..... S Durack 21
3 0200 PANOORAS LORD 73 J Wainwright 5-11-9 ..... Mark Smith (5) [illegible]
4 0656 IBN MASIRAH 8 (B,S) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-8 ..... M H Naughton 69
5 4-24 COURT JOKER 8 (CD,G) H Alexander 7-11-7 ..... L Cooper (3) 62
6 0000 KATIYMANN 8 (F,G,S) B Ellison 7-11-7 ..... E Husband 68
7 P06- RONNIES WEDDING 340 T Laxton 7-11-4 ..... S Porritt (5) 57
8 1149 KARAYLAR 32 (C,F,G) W Storey 7-11-1 ..... R McGrath –
9 -808 FORTUNE HOPPER 7 (D,G) Mrs E Slack 5-10-10 T Hagger (5) 37
10 -43P ANALOGICAL 21 D McCain 6-10-10 ..... A C Coyle –
11 54PP WINTERS KEEP 33 M Meagher 7-10-7 ..... C McCormack 57
12 00-P CEEJAYELL 7 G M Moore 6-10-0 ..... T Hogg (5) –
13 P-P5 JUST JAKE 8 J Jefferson 8-10-0 ..... M Mello (7) –

7-2 Court Joker, 4-1 Ibn Masirah, 9-2 Tennessee King, 7-1 others.

2.30 EQUINAGE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,863: 3m 3f 110yd) (7 runners)

1 F232 FOR CATHAL 31 (G,S) Mrs M Reveley 8-12-0 ..... P Niven 107
2 2FR4 KING PIN 31 (F,G,S) P Beaumont 7-11-11 ..... B Grattan (3) 38
3 3525 CYPRESS AVENUE 82 (C,F,G) Mrs V Ward 7-10-10 R Thornton 100
4 1364 PENINSULA BOY 13 (G) P Bowen 6-10-9 ..... W Marston 92
5 F0FP PHAR ECHO 17 (B,S) L Lungo 8-10-7 ..... W Dowling (5) 108
6 10/6 PILKINGTON 52 (S) J Howard Johnson 9-10-6 N Hannity (5) 82
7 0F60 KINDA GROOVY 32 (CD,F,G) I Park 10-10-0 ..... N Smith [illegible]

3-1 For Cathal, King Pin, 9-2 Cypress Avenue, Peninsula Boy, 10-1 others.

3.00 FRANK SCOTTO MEMORIAL NOVICES CHASE (£5,443: 2m 110yd) (7 runners)

1 1112 BARNBURGH BOY 17 (D,G,S) T Easterby 5-11-3 ..... L Wyer [illegible]
2 0-F5 CASTLE CLEAR 171 (BF,D,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-1 Mr A Dempsey (3) –
3 050F EBEN AL HABEEB 10 (B,D,S) D McCain 8-11-1 A C Coyle (5) 49
4 -342 FASSAN 24 (D,S) M Hammond 7-11-1 ..... B Harding 105
5 -362 TRIONA'S HOPE 10 E Caine 10-11-1 ..... Mr O Fagan 91
6 -500 DRUMDONNA 7 (B) P Beaumont 9-10-10 ..... B Grattan (3) –
7 5P00 BROADGATE FLYER 84 (D,F) D Lamb 5-10-7 ..... J Burke –

4-6 Barnburgh Boy, 7-2 Fassan, 4-1 Castle Clear, 33-1 Triona's Hope, 50-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: P Bowen, 8 winners from 30 runners, 26.7%; L Lungo, 10 from 41, 24.4%; Mrs M Reveley, 52 from 217, 24.0%; J Jefferson, 9 from 38, 23.7%; S Bell, 4 from 17, 23.5%; Mrs A Swinbank, 7 from 32, 21.9%. JOCKEYS: P Niven, 38 winners from 153 rides, 24.8%; E Husband, 8 from 34, 23.5%; A Dempsey, 3 from 15, 20.0%; N Hannity, 3 from 15, 20.0%; M H Naughton, 4 from 21, 19.0%; G Lee, 16 from 86, 18.6%.

3.30 MCEWAN'S DURHAM NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (£10,455: 3m 4f) (8 runners)

1 1416 SILLARS STALKER 39 (C,F,G,S) W Haigh 11-11-10 G Lee 94
2 6-62 PUNTERS BAR 59 (G,S) P Bowen 12-11-9 ..... W Marston 100
3 2244 SNIPER 8 (S) F Murtagh 7-11-6 ..... C McCormack (3) 106
4 P3U3 PARIAH 10 (G,S) M Todhunter 10-11-2 ..... R McGrath 116
5 4522 MISTER MUDDYPAWS 24 (F,G) J Howard Johnson 9-11-0 Mr J Crowley (5) 101
6 1413 THE SNOW BURN 24 (B,C,S) T Tate 6-10-13 B Harding 96
7 053U D'ARBLAY STREET 4 (B,C,G,S) W Kemp 10-10-5 B Storey 104
8 40PP MAJORITY MAJOR 11 (D,G,S) J Wade 10-10-1 . A S Smith [illegible]

3-1 Sillars Stalker, 4-1 Mister Muddypaws, Punters Bar, 5-1 The Snow Burn, 6-1 D'Arblay Street, 7-1 Sniper, 8-1 Pariah, 66-1 Majority Major.

4.00 ROBIN AND JOHN SIMPSON MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (£3,716: 2m 5f) (9 runners)

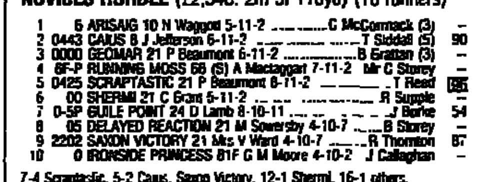
1 -3P4 BACK BAR 17 (G,S) D McCain 11-12-0 ..... A C Coyle (5) 79
2 -P5P TIMBUCKTOO 35 (B,D,G,S) J Oliver 12-11-1 ..... B Storey –
3 P-P6 MR FUDGE 13 (F,G,S) M Sowersby 12-10-8 M H Naughton (5) 64
4 P002 ANOTHER RED 21 (CD,F,S) W Raw 11-10-0 N Horrocks (5) 89
5 3-3F LORD RULLAH 119 (D,F,S) J Wade 8-10-0 ..... A S Smith 81
6 P06P COPPERHURST 7 (G,S) W Kemp 8-10-0 C McCormack (3) [illegible]
7 U004 MARLINGFORD 21 (F,S) Mrs J Jordan 12-10-0 ..... S Taylor 67
8 3-20 CORBLEU 83 (G) S Bell 9-10-0 ..... K Johnson 90
9 1-0P JOE JAGGER 45 (G) M Hammond 8-10-0 ..... B Harding –

5-2 Another Red, 4-1 Lord Rullah, 5-1 Mr Fudge, 11-2 Corbleu, 6-1 Marlingford, 10-1 Copperhurst, 12-1 Back Bar, 16-1 others.

4.30 LEVY BOARD 'NATIONAL HUNT' MAIDEN HURDLE (£1,765: 3m 3f 110yd) (8 runners)

1 60-R GUS CUNNINGHAM 21 (S) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-5 Mr A Dempsey (3) 15
2 040 HARMONY HILL 11 J Parkes 7-11-5 ..... B Harding 37
3 000P OVER STATED 8 I Park 9-11-5 ..... M H Naughton (5) 31
4 04U4 RIVER DOUGLAS 15 (B) Mrs A Swinbank 7-11-5 Mr C Wilson –
5 0-3P STEELERS DREAM 32 (B) T Easterby 7-11-5 ..... L Wyer –
6 0/64 THE COUNTRY DON 18 K Morgan 7-11-5 ..... A S Smith –
7 050 THE MONKEY 21 W Kemp 5-11-5 ..... C McCormack (3) –
8 1564 NEVERMIND HEY 10 (S) D McCain 5-11-0 ..A C Coyle (5) [illegible]

6-4 Nevermind Hey, 9-4 River Douglas, 6-1 Gus Cunningham, 7-1 The Country Don, 8-1 Steelers Dream, 14-1 Harmony Hill, 33-1 others.



5.00 ALPHAMERIC SOLUTIONS TO BOOKMAKERS NOVICES HURDLE (£2,548: 2m 5f 110yd) (10 runners)

1 6 ARISAIG 10 N Waggott 5-11-2 ..... C McCormack (3) –
2 0443 CAIUS 8 J Jefferson 6-11-2 ..... T Siddall (5) 90
3 0000 GEOMAR 21 P Beaumont 6-11-2 ..... B Grattan (3) –
4 6F-P RUNNING MOSS 68 (S) A Mactaggart 7-11-2 Mr C Storey –
5 0425 SCRAPTASTIC 21 P Beaumont 8-11-2 ..... T Reed [illegible]
6 00 SHERMI 21 C Grant 5-11-2 ..... R Supple –
7 0-5P GUILE POINT 24 D Lamb 8-10-11 ..... J Burke 54
8 05 DELAYED REACTION 21 M Sowersby 4-10-7 ..... B Storey –
9 2202 SAXON VICTORY 21 Mrs V Ward 4-10-7 ..... R Thornton 87
10 0 IRONSIDE PRINCESS 81F G M Moore 4-10-2 J Callaghan –

7-4 Scraptastic, 5-2 Caius, Saxon Victory, 12-1 Shermi, 16-1 others.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Fontwell Park

Going: soft, good to soft in places

2.20 (2m 2f 110yd hdle) 1, **Smint** (P Hide, 7-4 fav); 2, Eden Heights (7-1); 3, Soviet Lady (40-1). 15 ran. 1¼l, 9l. J Gifford. Tote £2.80; £1.40, £1.50, £4.00. DF £7.90. CSF £13.48.

2.50 (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, **The Minder** (M A Fitzgerald, 7-1, Thunderer's nap); 2, Weather Wise (7-1); 3, Weapons Free (33-1). Claireswen (4th) 2-1 fav. 12 ran. NR: Divine Chance. Sh hd, 4l. G Edwards. Tote: £9.30; £2.20, £3.10, £9.00. DF: £25.90. CSF: £48.98. Tricast: £1,390.60.

3.20 (3m 2f 110yd ch) 1, **Nazzaro** (A P McCoy, 11-4); 2, Sophie May (5-1); 3, Well Timed (100-30). Grosvenor (left) 7-4 fav. 5 ran. 2l, dist. W Turner. Tote: £3.20; £1.80, £2.80. DF: £16.10. CSF: £14.81.

3.50 (2m 2f 110yd hdle) 1, **Dancing Paddy** (N Williamson, 4-1); 2, Tissue of Lies (7-1); 3, Amaze (4-1). Rajati 9-4 fav. 8 ran. 3l, 2l. K C-Brown. Tote: £3.60; £1.70, £1.80, £2.00. DF: £11.10. CSF: £30.09. Tricast: £109.89.

4.20 (2m 3f ch) 1, **Head For Heaven** (J Culloty, 4-1); 2, Smart Guy (33-1); 3, Kingsfold Pet (1-4 fav). 5 ran. 2l, dist. R Head. Tote: £3.70; £1.20, £3.70. DF: £21.80. CSF: £50.75.

4.50 (3m 3f hdle) 1, **Rosey Boy** (N Williamson, 5-4 fav: **Timekeeper's top rating**); 2, Jim Jam Joey (6-4); 3, Bozo (5-1). 6 ran. 4l, 30l. M Pitman. Tote: £1.70; £1.40, £1.40. DF: £1.70. CSF: £3.23.

Placepot: £215.70. Quadpot: £25.90.

Musselburgh

Going: good good to soft in places

2.00 (2m hdle) 1, **Goldengirlmichelle** (A Maguire, 16-1); 2, Polo Venture (3-1); 3, Cumculus (12-1). Iron Mountain 2-1 fav. 14 ran. NR: Simlet. Nk, 1¾l. F Murphy. Tote: £13.30; £3.50, £1.10, £2.90. DF: £17.90. CSF: £52.60.

2.30 (3m hdle) 1, **Bridle Path** (R McGrath, 6-1); 2, Ruber (11-4 fav); 3, Rallegio (5-1). 10 ran. 6l, 3½l. T Easterby. Tote: £7.00; £2.20, £1.80, £1.60. DF: £6.20. CSF: £17.93. Tricast: £63.10.

3.00 (2m ch) 1, **Charming Girl** (J Osborne, 6-4 fav); 2, Rossel (9-4); 3, Stash The Cash (5-2). 6 ran. 7l, dist. O Sherwood. Tote: £1.90; £1.50, £1.70. DF: £3.00. CSF: £4.08.

3.30 (2m hdle) 1, **Well Appointed** (Mr B Gibson, 8-1); 2, Welsh Mountain (11-4); 3, Eastern Project (5-2 fav). 7 ran. 3l, 7l. B Mactaggart. Tote: £10.00; £2.40, £1.70. DF: £11.50. CSF: £25.84.

4.00 (2m 4f hdle) 1, **Citizen Kane** (J Osborne, 9-1); 2, Curtaineatchopwell (7-1); 3, Tifasi (4-1 jt-fav). Mutasarrif 4-1 jt-fav. 11 ran. 6l, 5l. O Sherwood. Tote: £11.90; £1.50, £3.00, £2.10. DF: £25.60. CSF: £83.77. Tricast: £269.44.

4.30 (3m ch) 1, **Salem Beach** (C McCormack, 7-2 jt-fav); 2, Merlins Dream (8-1); 3, Danbys Gorse (9-2). Desert Brave (5th) 7-2 jt-fav. 7 ran. 7l, 14l. Martin Todhunter. Tote: £3.00; £1.70, £3.20. DF: £9.10. CSF: £23.78.

5.00 (2m flat) 1, **Stop The Gossip** (B Storey, 12-1); 2, Lobbingalong (7-1); 3, Enborne (5-2 fav). 9 ran. 6l, 4l. B Mactaggart. Tote: £17.10; £1.10, £1.70, £1.90. DF: £31.80. CSF: £85.40.

Placepot: £28.00. Quadpot: £36.30.

RICHARD EVANS
Kinnahalla (3.20 Exeter)
Lady Of Gortmerron (4.20 Exeter)

Southwell

Going: standard

1.40 (1m) 1, **Without Friends** (D McKeown, 14-1); 2, Almazhar (14-1); 3, Shontaine (10-1). Windshift 11-4 fav. 13 ran. NR: Reased. 1l, ¾l. Mrs N Macauley. Tote: £18.50; £4.60, £4.20, £1.80. DF: £118.70. CSF: £172.12. Tricast: £1,928.34.

2.10 (1m) 1, **Mutahadeth** (J Fanning, 12-1); 2, Cool Secret (8-1); 3, Shamokin (14-1). Gain Line 4-1 fav. 14 ran. ½l, ½l. D Shaw. Tote: £11.40; £3.70, £3.90, £3.20. DF: £44.30. CSF: £93.20. Tricast: £837.96.

2.40 (1m 4f) 1, **Robellita** (P Goode, 5-1); 2, Terrazzo (6-1); 3, Country Orchid (5-1). Copernicus (5th) 3-1 fav. 10 ran. NR: Chalapin. 5l, hd. B Smart. Tote: £6.80; £1.70, £1.80, £2.50. DF: £50.90. CSF: £33.06.

3.10 (2m) 1, **Quezon City** (R Cochrane, 11-4 fav); 2, Mudlark (14-1); 3, Colendge (12-1). 11 ran. 2½l, nk. Miss J Camacho. Tote: £4.90; £1.80, £2.40, £5.50. DF: £24.50. CSF: £40.23. Tricast: £367.25.

3.40 (6f) 1, **Maltesmia** (J Quinn, 11-1); 2, Nifty Norman (12-1); 3, Ocker (5-2 fav). 12 ran. Sh hd, 3½l. S Bowring. Tote: £12.00; £3.40, £3.60, £1.50. DF: £41.10. CSF: £125.39. Tricast: £404.46.

4.10 (1m) 1, **Inch Perfect** (R Lappin, 33-1); 2, Future Prospect (6-1); 3, Brocture Line (4-1). Scathebury 3-1 fav. 16 ran. 1¾l, 2l. J Hetherton. Tote: £53.60; £10.80, £1.70, £2.40. DF: £621.70. CSF: £210.39.

4.40 (1m 4f) 1, **Swift** (K Fallon, 5-1); 2, Linea-G (7-4 fav); 3, Mysterium (16-1). 11 ran. 2l, 2l. M Polglase. Tote: £6.20; £2.50, £1.40, £4.20. DF: £5.80. CSF: £12.83. Tricast: £122.28.

5.10 (1m 4f) 1, **River Captain** (C Lowther, 8-1); 2, Approved Quality (6-1); 3, Kannaka (25-1). Hibernate 3-1 fav. 11 ran. 5l, 1¼l. D M-Smith. Tote: £7.70; £1.50, £1.40, £4.40. DF: £27.80. CSF: £48.96. Tricast: £1,060.29.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £274,903.40 carried forward to Exeter today).
Placepot: £3,118.80. Quadpot: £34.60.

EXETER

THUNDERER
2.20 Veiled Dancer
2.50 WISE GUNNER (nap)
3.20 Simpson
3.50 Bracey Run
4.20 Lady Of Gortmerron
4.50 Lizzys First

Timekeeper's top rating: 4.20 LADY OF GORTMERRON.

GOING: SOFT (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

2.20 CHAGFORD MARES ONLY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,576: 2m 1f 110yd) (11 runners)

101 666136 SPIRIT LEVEL 35 (C,F,S) (J Payne) J R Payne 11-11-12 ..... Mr P Rymn (7) 73
102 5253P4 SUMMER FLOWER 13 (D,F,S) (B Ward) Miss Z Davison 9-11-9 ..... Mr A Irvine (7) 73
103 0F50-3 TRUE VISION 14 (R Hedditch) M Pipe 5-11-7 ..... A P McCoy –
104 /P0P4- POT BLACKBIRD 339 (H Bibbey) R Brotherton 10-11-5 ..... R Johnson 55
105 0P-4PP DAISY 19 (B) (G Hutsell) R Baker 6-11-1 ..... G Shenkin (5) 35
106 0010P0 SANDANTE 6 (CD,S) (M West) R Buckler 8-10-11 ..... D O'Sullivan (7) 49
107 040233 REMEMBER STAR 18F (G Duckhaven Stud) R Baker 6-10-10 ..... V Slattery 71
108 0PUP5 RUBY BEAR 14 (D Kirkland) W Brisbourne 4-10-8 ..... R Massey –
109 -56FPP VEILED DANCER 34 (N Holdsworth) R Frost 6-10-8 ..... Mr A Holdsworth [illegible]
110 PP6-0 LITTLE FLIMS 14 (Bowling Green Garage (Powick)) M Sheppard 6-10-6 . G Tormey –
111 0-6P HENBURY PRINCESS 33 (F Crumpler) B Millman 6-10-5 ..... D Salter –

BETTING: 2-1 True Vision, 3-1 Remember Star, 6-1 Spirit Level, 7-1 Summer Flower, 10-1 Pot Blackbird, 12-1 Daisy, 16-1 Sandante, Veiled Dancer, 20-1 others.

1998: LOVELARK 9-10-1 M Griffiths (14-1) R Brotherton 18 ran

Spirit Level 68l 6th of 12 to Nordandic in handicap hurdle at Taunton (3m 110yd, good to soft). Summer Flower 13l 4th of 14 to Charlie Chang in selling handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, soft). True Vision 9l 3rd of 14 to Starboard in claiming hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good to soft) with Ruby Bear (7lb better off) 17l 5th and Little Flims (15lb better off) 47l 11th. Pot Blackbird 17l 4th of 15 to Backview in novice selling hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, soft). Sandante 68l 13th of 16 to Pridewood Foggle in selling handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, heavy). Remember Star 10l 3rd of 11 to Crazy Crusader in novice handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 6f, heavy). Henbury Princess pulled up in novice hurdle at Towcester (2m, soft).

TRUE VISION has a solid chance in a weak contest

2.50 SOUTH WEST RACING CLUB AMATEUR RIDERS NH NOVICES HURDLE (£2,326: 2m 1f 110yd) (7 runners)

201 2/63-1 WISE GUNNER 8 (D,S) (J Ennis) M Pipe 6-11-5 ..... A Farrant [illegible]
202 2-20 HASTEN BAK 12 (Thurlestone Hotel Racing Club) R Frost 6-11-4 A Holdsworth (5) –
203 0P-FP0 PANCHO'S TANGO 128 (S) (N Shutts) Miss K Marks 9-11-4 ..... A Phillips (3) –
204 3364/ POT BLACK UK 721 (A Loze) P Hobbs 8-11-4 ..... P Flynn (7) –
205 00 WICKED GAME 60 (Miss E Jones) B Llewellyn 5-11-4 ..... J L Llewellyn –
206 1/F DAWN SPINNER 22 (D,G) (Mrs H Maitland-Jones) N Henderson 7-10-13 M Foley (7) –
207 -31105 ROBORETTE 22 (D,S) (T Wadsworth) J Neville 6-10-13 ..... Miss P Jones –

BETTING: 4-5 Wise Gunner, 9-2 Dawn Spinner, 7-1 Pot Black Uk, Roborette, 12-1 Hasten Bak, 16-1 Wicked Game, 25-1 Pancho's Tango

1998: NOT REALLY 7-11-7 K R O'Ryan (12-1) Lady E Mays-Smith 18 ran

Wise Gunner beat Anns Girl 5l in 11-runner maiden hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, heavy). Hasten Bak 48l 10th of 18 to Mestre Sala in national hunt flat race at Wincanton (2m, good to soft). Pancho's Tango 74l last of 16 to Greenflag Princess in handicap chase at Punchestown (2m 3f, soft). Pot Black UK 25l 4th of 12 to Dictum in novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm). Wicked Game a distance last of 14 to Sandy Duff in national hunt flat race at Ludlow (2m, good to soft). Dawn Spinner fell in mares novice hurdle at Hereford (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft), previously beat Vicar's Vase neck in 17-runner national hunt flat race at Hereford (2m 1f, good). Roborette a distance 5th of 12 to Deep C Diva in mares novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, soft).

WISE GUNNER, proven on soft ground, can follow up her Plumpton victory

COURSE SPECIALISTS

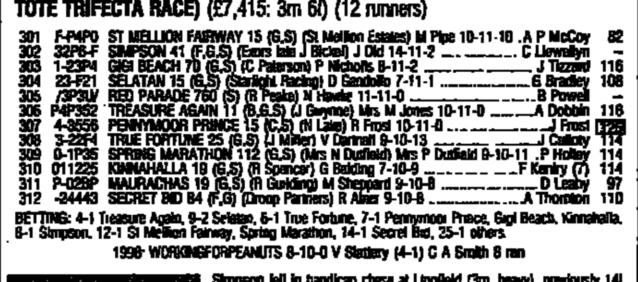
TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
Mrs M Jones	3	10	30.0	A Farrant	4	7	57.1
M Pipe	58	241	24.1	S Wynne	4	18	22.2
P Hobbs	29	124	23.4	A McCoy	26	139	18.7
Miss H Knight	27	118	22.9	C Maude	17	92	18.5
J Neville	3	15	20.0	J Frost	18	122	14.8
N Twiston-Davies	9	49	18.4	C Llewellyn	10	69	14.5
P Nicholls	6	33	18.2	J Culloty	7	51	13.7
J Old	3	19	15.8	D Salter	9	77	11.7
R Alner	12	82	14.6	G Tormey	5	43	11.6
B Millman	6	42	14.3	P Holley	5	51	9.8

3.20 TOTE HALDON NATIONAL CHASE (SHOWCASE HANDICAP AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE) (£7,415: 3m 6f) (12 runners)

301 F-P4P0 ST MELLION FAIRWAY 15 (G,S) (St Mellion Estates) M Pipe 10-11-10 . A P McCoy 82
302 32P6-F SIMPSON 41 (F,G,S) (Exors late J Bickel) J Old 14-11-2 ..... C Llewellyn –
303 1-23P4 GIGI BEACH 70 (G,S) (C Paterson) P Nicholls 8-11-2 ..... J Tizzard 116
304 23-F21 SELATAN 15 (G,S) (Starlight Racing) D Gandolfo 7-11-1 ..... G Bradley 108
305 /3P3UV RED PARADE 760 (S) (R Peake) N Hawke 11-11-0 ..... B Powell –
306 P4P352 TREASURE AGAIN 11 (B,G,S) (J Gwynne) Mrs M Jones 10-11-0 ..... A Dobbin 118
307 4-3556 PENNYMOOR PRINCE 15 (C,S) (N Lane) R Frost 10-11-0 ..... J Frost [illegible]
308 3-22F4 TRUE FORTUNE 25 (G,S) (J Miller) V Dartnall 8-10-13 ..... J Culloty 114
309 0-1P35 SPRING MARATHON 112 (G,S) (Mrs N Dutfield) Mrs P Dutfield 9-10-11 . P Holley 114
310 011225 KINNAHALLA 18 (G,S) (R Spencer) G Balding 7-10-9 ..... F Kenny (7) 114
311 P-028P MAURACHAS 19 (G,S) (R Guilding) M Sheppard 9-10-8 ..... D Leahy 97
312 -24443 SECRET BID 84 (F,G) (Droop Partners) R Alner 9-10-8 ..... A Thornton 110

BETTING: 4-1 Treasure Again, 9-2 Selatan, 6-1 True Fortune, 7-1 Pennymoor Prince, Gigi Beach, Kinnahalla, 8-1 Simpson, 12-1 St Mellion Fairway, Spring Marathon, 14-1 Secret Bid, 25-1 others.

1998: WORKINGFORPEANUTS 8-10-0 V Slattery (4-1) C A Smith 8 ran



Simpson fell in handicap chase at Lingfield (3m, heavy), previously 14l 6th of 18 to Galaleson Jane in amateur handicap hurdle at Chepstow (good). Gigi Beach 19l 4th of 14 to No Fiddling in handicap chase at Taunton (3m, good to soft). Selatan beat Stavagore Warrior ½l in 11-runner handicap chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, good to soft) with Pennymoor Prince (10lb better off) 34l 6th and St Mellion Fairway (10lb better off) 57l 8th. Treasure Again 4l 2nd of 11 to Prime Example in handicap chase at Market Rasen (3m 4f 110yd, soft). True Fortune 26l 4th of 16 to Full Of Oats in handicap chase at Bangor (3m 6f, good to soft) with Maurachas (2lb better off) beaten a distance. Spring Marathon 35l 5th of 8 to Mister Blake in handicap chase at Newton Abbot (3m 2f 110yd, good to soft). Kinnahalla 55l 5th of 8 to Looks Like Trouble in novice handicap chase at Sandown (3m 110yd, good).

TREASURE AGAIN appeals on his recent Market Rasen second

3.50 RALEIGH GILBERT MEMORIAL NOVICES CHASE (£3,711: 2m 3f) (11 runners)

401 001/6 BLANCHLAND 21 (F) (Mrs S Watson) P Ritchens 10-11-2 ..... C Maude –
402 334P-F BRACEY RUN 122 (S) (Doubleprint) J Old 9-11-2 ..... C Llewellyn –
403 033615 CENTO 47 (B,D,S) (B Yin) Mrs S Williams 6-11-2 ..... S Wynne –
404 4P1/1- CRACK REGIMENT 408P (G,S) (Twentyman) R Buckler 7-11-2 ..... B Powell –
405 -54P5F DEFENDTHEREALM 38 (S) (G Standing) R Frost 8-11-2 ..... J Frost –
406 PPP55P FADI 96 (B) (Islands Racing Connection) R Baker 8-11-2 ..... G Shenkin (5) –
407 2P-305 MILLCROFT REGATTA 73 (J Carter) R Alner 7-11-2 ..... A Thornton 96
408 1/P64 RASHSKIN 42 (G) (B Kay) G Balding 8-11-2 ..... A P McCoy –
409 -43464 SCARLET RAMBLER 34 (D,F) (R Burridge) R Frost 10-11-2 ..... T O'Connor (7) 41
410 1/0503 STORM DUST 15 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs R Tice) Miss H Knight 10-11-2 ..... J Culloty [illegible]
411 0-00 TACO'S REVENGE 68 (M McMillan) M McMillan 6-11-2 ..... V Slattery –

BETTING: 5-2 Bracey Run, 11-2 Storm Dust, 6-1 Crack Regiment, 7-1 Defendtherealm, 8-1 Millcroft Regatta, 10-1 Cento, 12-1 Rashskin, 14-1 others.

1998: GARETHSON 7-11-2 J Culloty (7-2) Miss H Knight 8 ran

Blanchland 54l 6th of 12 to Brambles Way in claiming hurdle at Leicester (2m, heavy). Bracey Run fell in novice chase grade 2 at Chepstow (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft). Cento 26l 5th of 10 to Life's Work in handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 3f 110yd, heavy). Defendtherealm fell in novice chase at Plumpton (3m 1f, soft), previously 37l 5th of 8 to Arctic Chanter in handicap hurdle at Taunton (3m, good to soft). Millcroft Regatta 31l 5th of 8 to Miss Pennyhill in novice handicap chase at Hereford (2m 3f, good). Scarlet Rambler 27l 4th of 5 to Fighting Times in novice chase at Newton Abbot (2m, heavy). Storm Dust 10l 3rd of 12 to Holdimclose in novice chase at Fontwell (2m 3f, good to soft).

MILLCROFT REGATTA is a tentative choice in a tricky race

4.20 EGGESFORD NOVICES HURDLE (£2,406: 3m 2f) (10 runners)

501 36PPP0 AMOTHEBAMBO 15 (B) (Mrs M Shenkin) R Baker 6-10-12 ..... G Shenkin (5) 60
502 CORINTHIAN GOLD (Mrs C Dunn) R Buckler 8-10-12 ..... B Powell –
503 3/6334 EZANAK 19 (B,BF) (West Lockinge Partnership) Miss H Knight 6-10-12 . J Culloty 97
504 2/4333 GREYCOAT BOY 5 (B) (N Rimington) J King 7-10-12 ..... A P McCoy 102
505 0/320 JAZZ DUKE 12 (M Weeden) M J Weeden 6-10-12 ..... C Maude 91
506 -14224 LADY OF GORTMERRON 14 (S) (Cheltenham) N T-Davies 7-10-12 ..... C Llewellyn [illegible]
507 246650 SHADIRWAN 6 (C Popham) C Popham 8-10-12 ..... O McPhail (5) 75
508 0-65 BRANSCOMBE 20 (Axminster Carpets Ltd) Mrs P Dutfield 6-10-7 ..... P Holley 38
509 1-6F2 KELLYS CONQUEST 13 (S) (F Matthews) J Mullins 6-10-7 ..... A Thornton 84
510 003-P0 SEE MINNOW 6 (Miss S Waterman) Miss S Waterman 6-10-7 ... Mr D O'Meara (7) 40

BETTING: 7-4 Lady Of Gortmerron, 2-1 Kellys Conquest, 11-2 Ezanak, 6-1 Greycoat Boy, 16-1 Jazz Duke, 20-1 Corinthian Gold, Branscombe, 33-1 others.

1998: EDMOND 6-11-4 R Thornton (6-4 fav) T Forster 10 ran

Amothebambo a distance 7th of 13 to Arctic Camper in novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f 110yd, good to soft). Greycoat Boy 8l 3rd of 8 to Master Rastus in novice hurdle at Taunton (3m 110yd, heavy), previously 5½l 3rd of 18 to Tempestuous Lady in novice handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good) with Ezanak (4lb worse off) 6½l 4th. Jazz Duke a distance 7th of 11 to Lord Noelie in novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good to soft). Lady Of Gortmerron 8½l 4th of 18 to Mister Generosity in handicap hurdle at Ludlow (3m 2f 110yd, good to soft). Branscombe 33l 5th of 16 to Conchobor in maiden hurdle at Folkestone (2m 6f 110yd, heavy). Kellys Conquest 3½l 2nd of 9 to Hot To Trot in novice hurdle at Folkestone (2m 6f 110yd, soft).

LADY OF GORTMERRON narrowly gets the vote over Kellys Conquest

4.50 TOTE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,786: 2m 1f 110yd) (6 runners)

601 0/314- KING MOLE 411 (BF,S) (D Miles) J Old 8-12-0 ..... C Llewellyn –
602 U21311 LIZZYS FIRST 19 (CD,S) (Exe Valley Racing) B Millman 7-11-7 ..... D Salter 86
603 012-P NOBEL LAD 89 (S) (J Hennett) M Pipe 5-11-3 ..... A P McCoy 93
604 -62032 SUNRISE SPECIAL 22 (C,S) (F Landrigan) P Rodford 6-11-0 ..... S Burrough 104
605 460133 ADVANCE EAST 5 (G,S) (A Hutchings) C Popham 7-10-11 ..... O McPhail (5) [illegible]
606 043604 RANGER SLOANE 12 (D,G,S) (G Fierro) G Fierro 7-10-9 ..... R Farrant 91

BETTING: 2-1 Lizzys First, 7-2 Sunrise Special, 9-2 Advance East, King Mole, 6-1 Nobel Lad, 10-1 Ranger Sloane.

1998: THE BREWER 6-10-0 R Bellamy (4-1) J Tuck 7 ran

King Mole 4½l 4th of 13 to Never In Debt in novice hurdle at Taunton (2m 3f 110yd, soft). Lizzys First beat Beely Nova 4l in 9-runner handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft). Nobel Lad pulled up in handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good to soft), previously 9l 2nd of 13 to Machiavelli in 4yo novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, good). Sunrise Special 3½l 2nd of 11 to Allez Wijins in handicap hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, soft). Advance East 7l 3rd of 8 to Two Lords in handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m 5f 110yd, soft).

LIZZYS FIRST remains in good form and can continue his winning run

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Exeter: 2.20 Daisy. 4.20 Greycoat Boy. Sedgefield: 4.00 Timbucktoo. 4.30 River Douglas. 4.30 Steelers Dream.



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

This hand was published in early January; I said it required some good technique by the declarer.

Dealer West — N-S game — Rubber bridge

North: ♠ Q J 8 7 6 ♡ 5 3 ◇ 10 9 8 2 ♣ A K
West: ♠ A K 10 9 4 ♡ A K 9 8 7 6 ◇ 4 ♣ 9
East: ♠ 5 3 2 ♡ Q 10 4 2 ◇ K 7 6 5 ♣ Q 8
South: ♠ – ♡ J ◇ A Q J 3 ♣ J 10 7 6 5 4 3 2

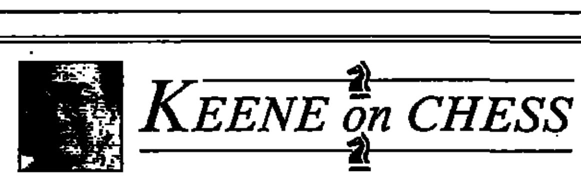
W	N	E	S
Courtney	*Hallberg*	*Brinig*	*Simpson*
2 H	Pass	3 H	3 S
Double	Pass	4 H	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 C	Pass
5 H	5 S	Double	6 C
Double	All Pass		

Contract: Six Clubs doubled by South. Lead: ace of spades.

I discussed the peculiar bidding in the earlier article. After ruffing the spade Colin Simpson crossed to dummy with a club. He then carefully played a diamond to the queen. When that held he could draw the other trump, and run the ten of diamonds. I pointed out the importance of the early diamond finesse – if declarer draws both trumps before tackling diamonds, he cannot pick up East's king.

I stated that if West was void in diamonds the contract was not makable. That is correct if declarer draws two trumps immediately, but Roger Pechey of Beckenham, Kent, and Garth Saunders of Ferndown, Dorset, point out that declarer can do better. At trick two he plays a club, but instead of taking the diamond finesse he leads the queen of spades and discards a heart on it. When he regains the lead he draws the last trump, cashes the jack of spades discarding the jack of diamonds, and finally runs the ten of diamonds. This is an improvement on Simpson's line, in that it brings the contract home even if West has no diamonds.

☐The winners of the Ranked Pairs, played in Coventry at the weekend, were : Ted Reveley and David Stevenson (Grand); Megan and Mel Starkings (Premier Life); Peter Fountain and Jo Skillern (Life); Chris Potter and John Yuill (National); Jaivan Patel and Tim Glover (Regional); and Peter Kaufmann and Harry Silverman (Master).



KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Victory clinched

With a win in the twelfth round against Michael Adams, of England, Garry Kasparov, the world champion, has, remarkably, already clinched victory with two rounds to go in the elite tournament at Linares in Spain.

The game was, in fact, a disaster for the English grandmaster, who seemed on the verge of inflicting Kasparov's first defeat on him. However, Adams lost his way and eventually succumbed.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Michael Adams
Linares 1999

Ruy Lopez

	White	Black
1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bb5	a6
4	Ba4	Nf6
5	0-0	Be7
6	Re1	b5
7	Bb3	0-0
8	h3	Bb7
9	d3	d6
10	a3	Na5
11	Ba2	c5
12	Nc3	Nc6
13	Bg5	Qd7
14	Nh2	Ne8
15	Bd2	Nc7
16	Nf1	Kh8
17	Ng3	Nd4
18	Nce2	Nde6
19	b4	d5
20	bxc5	Bxc5
21	Bb4	Rfe8
22	Bxc5	Nxc5
23	Nc3	Rad8
24	Qh5	f6
25	d4	exd4
26	Nxd5	Re5
27	Qh4	Nxd5
28	exd5	Bxd5
29	Rxe5	fxe5
30	Bxd5	Qxd5
31	Re1	Ne6
32	Nf5	Nf4
33	Qg5	Rd7
34	Nh4	h6
35	Qg4	g5
36	Nf3	e4
37	Rxe4	Qxe4
38	Qxd7	d3
39	cxd3	Qxd3
40	Qc8+	Kg7
41	Qb7+	Kg8
42	Qxa6	Ne2+
43	Kh2	Qe4
44	Qf6	Qf4+
45	Qxf4	gxf4
46	g4	fxg3+
47	fxg3	Nc3
48	Nd4	h5
49	h4	Kf7
50	Kh3	Kf6
51	g4	hxg4+
52	Kxg4	Kg6
53	h5+	Kh7
54	Kh4	Kg8
55	h6	Kh7
56	Kh5	Ne4
57	Nxb5	Nf6+
58	Kg5	Ne4+
59	Kf5	Nc5
60	Ke5	Kxh6
61	Kd4	Na6
62	Kd5	Kg6
63	Nd4	Kf6
64	Kd6	Kf7
65	Ne6	Black resigns

Diagram of final position

Latest scores

Kasparov 9.5 (out of a possible 12); Kramnik 7; Anand 6.5; Leko and Topalov 5.5; Adams 5; Svidler and Ivanchuk 4.5.

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

MEW
a. Moulting place
b. A seabird
c. A Sanskrit letter

SHINANIN
a. A gambling game
b. Irish mayhem
c. Angels

PARASELENE
a. An umbrella
b. Moonshine
c. A sedative

DEMERSAL
a. An emollient
b. Life form
c. A Hungarian coin

Answers on page 50

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

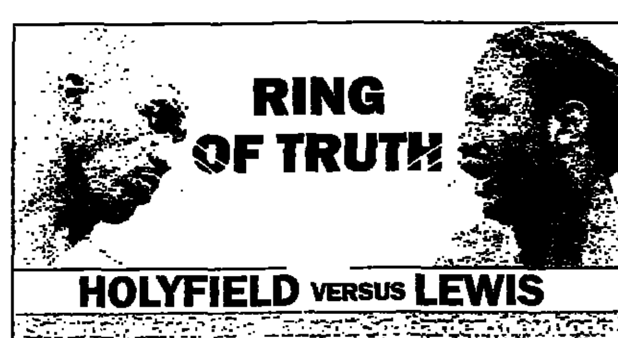
White to play. This position is from the game Maksimenko — Roskar, Slovenia 1998. The black queen and knight have drifted away from the kingside, where White is well positioned for a quick attack. How did White make the most of his superiority of force?

Solution on page 50

Briton will knuckle down to task but faces awesome prospect in Garden of American pugilistic acclaim

Determined Lewis takes on weight of history

FROM ROB HUGHES, CHIEF SPORTS WRITER IN NEW YORK



TRY AS he might to brainwash himself into believing that he is a few strides from his ring of destiny, Lennox Lewis faces an overwhelming historical as well as physical and mental assignment at Madison Square Garden on Saturday night. The week here has begun with a northerly wind that chills folks to the marrow, and with the conviction that, if Lewis is to topple Evander Holyfield for the undisputed heavyweight championship of the world, the task is on a scale as high as the tallest buildings even here in New York City.

We can feel the intensity rising. Lewis is reaching for something that no British-born boxer has managed in this century. The last — indeed only — Englishman to have been undisputed heavyweight champion of the world can only now be viewed in sepia, for it was the year 1897 when Bob Fitzsimmons, born in Helston, Cornwall, won it in 1879. He held the belt for two years and, in the century that followed, 12 Britons have dared to try. 12 have fallen in the pursuit.

Not even Fitzsimmons did it the Garden of American pugilistic acclaim. There will be 20,000 fanatics around the Madison Square ring on Saturday. Lewis says he will shut them out, keep his cool, his focus, almost block reality out of his mind. Good luck to him, but Holyfield is reality — an older opponent, wiser in the ways of ringcraft, a warrior of proven defiance.

They are both wealthy men, worth around US$200 million between them, so hunger is not the core of their motivation. Neither sidesteps the terrifying implications of assault and battery, or the medical repercussion that make some of us look at Muhammad Ali and fear for the consequences each time such gladiators, both over the age of athletic prime, do battle. "I do intend to batter him senseless," Lewis has said. The phrase is as chilling as the wind.

Yet on both sides of the Atlantic the fever builds. We are drawn to this base primal instinct, even if half our brain questions the sanity and the validity of organised brain-beating as entertainment. But we look back through the annals of boxing — was it ever a noble art? — to appreciate what Lewis, in his search for "respect", is attempting.

The Americanism "awesome" comes to mind. Only three men from Europe have won the world heavyweight championship, and just six non-Americans have wrested the heavyweight belt from United States fighters since records began. The sport — no, the business — has passed into a period of understandable black domination and the initiation of spurious titles has belittled the voracity of the claim to be world champion.

So, alas, we must exclude some Britons who have been pretenders to world heavyweight belt-holders. We have no choice but to acknowledge that what Lewis has won so far, what Frank Bruno and Herbie Hide, Henry Akinwande and — for heaven's sake — Johnny Nelson picked up were only pieces of the divided spoils.

The "unification" contest on Saturday is the first in the heavyweight division for eight years. Lewis might take inspiration from certain portents. Ides of March perhaps. Bob Fitzsimmons, like Lewis, was a man who left England in childhood to come back with a strange accent and with the grooming, the toughness that possibly the British welfare system has never bred into the heaviest of men.

Fitzsimmons, though, was not remotely of Lewis's physical stature. He had sailed from Cornwall to settle in New Zealand, to learn to box in Australia, to become an American citizen by the time his day of destiny dawned, in Carson City on March 17, 1897. He is described in the history books as balding, spindly and weighing just 167lb (barely 12st).

Lewis, born a Londoner but an Olympic Games gold medal-winner for Canada, to where he and his mother moved, scales one-and-a-half times that of Fitzsimmons and, at 240lb and 6ft 5½in, he almost dwarfs Holyfield.

But if they are half-British, they are two of a kind. Alienation hardens the soul, and though Lewis is most often accompanied by Violet, his Mum, doubtless he has read that it was feminine advice that helped Fitzsimmons to dethrone James J Corbett. "Hit him in the slats, Bob!" yelled the apparently uncompromising Mrs Rose Fitzsimmons when her man, at 34 a year older than Lewis is now, landed the crucial solar-plexus blow that finished off Corbett in round 14.

Fitzsimmons was to fight on until he was 52, a freak who won world crowns at three weights with his bare knuckles. In his ideal, Lewis should never be tempted to fight to such a vulnerable age and, doubtless in his search for respect, would not want to hit a man so hard or so low.

But we fool ourselves if we dress up the modern theatre of boxing as any less primitive or hurtful or, to women as much as to men, somehow fiercely compelling.

Holyfield can talk to us of Christ and Lewis can shield, as he does, his personal life from publicity. Don King, the promoter, can abuse our senses, but no one should enter this weekend thinking boxing is a cleansed pastime. The sweat and toil of 102 fruitless years, in which Englishmen of the sporting demeanour of Henry Cooper to the rather more basic approach of Joe Bugner, or Bruno or Brian London, know that heart is simply not sufficient in the American garden where our man is taking on more than the fight over bananas.

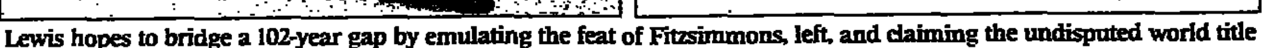
History shows that one man alone, Tommy Farr from Tonypandy, really impressed the Americans at Madison Square Garden. He fought the inestimable Joe Louis for 15 rounds and lost on points 62 years ago, but conceded nothing in respect.

Otherwise, this arena, which has passed from Barnum and Bailey to the deeds of Ali and Frazier, has remained remorselessly US territory. The chill returns — and Lennox Claudius Lewis has a few more days to try to kid himself that this is just another fight in another arena.

He has long said that the champions were avoiding him, that his powerful right hand would destroy Holyfield. Laconically, the Texan had replied when the contract was sealed last autumn: "Now we shall see how he (Lewis) holds up when he gets what he's been asking for."

The ring of destiny, indeed.





Lewis hopes to bridge a 102-year gap by emulating the feat of Fitzsimmons, left, and claiming the undisputed world title

Alarmed by approach of inevitable

LYNNE TRUSS



in New York

Sunday night, Madison Square Garden. A jet-lagged and over-stimulated woman ranges around a darkened building on West 33rd Street while icy winds X-ray her torso and Macy's carrier bags churn along Eighth Avenue, ten feet in the air. Manhattan always looks exactly the way it does in movies: how does it manage it? Steam rises through clanking grilles, the subway rattles below. People wear black "NY" ski-hats pulled down in line with their eyebrows and don't speak English.

All very satisfactory — except that the foremost boxing venue in the world has a night off, apparently. Damn. I can't even go and ask how much for a ringside ticket to Holyfield-Lewis, to test how Americans never know when you're joking.

But what's this? A sign of life. "Welcome" blazes a colourful neon sign outside the Garden. "Welcome to Arie Bedell's Bar Mitzvah." The woman paws feebly at a locked glass door, studies a timetable of Knicks events, and listens in vain on the deserted, icy walkway for echoes of past, huge fights at the Garden.

> 'She listens in vain for echoes of past huge fights'

Is that a faint "ding-ding"? The phantom roar of bloodlust? No? Oh well, Arie's bar mitzvah it is, then. More my sort of thing, if I'm honest. Egg mayonnaise in the shape of the Guggenheim; bit of dancing; no left hooks. Call me namby-pamby, but I do so prefer the sort of genteel event deemed a disaster (not a triumph) if half the participants do not go home spattered with blood.

Preparing for the Holyfield-Lewis fight has been an interesting exercise for a person mainly repulsed by boxing. As I trekked back uptown to my hotel, I had time to think about it. I mean, this "unification" is massively significant, right? A bit like the unification of Italy, only quicker?

Yet it will still involve two people attempting to bang each other on the head with fists like demolition balls. The fighters have heroic strengths and flaws: one an exhausted overachiever, the other a wilfully enigmatic underachiever. Yet the point of the contest is to "settle it", and unfortunately you don't settle world heavyweight championships by thrashing it out over coffee.

Yes, the main thing about this fight is: it's going to happen. Come Saturday night, there will be a ding-ding at Madison Square Garden to end all ding-dings. Ever the pragmatist, therefore, I mugged up at home last week with some videos. "Don't underestimate yourself," I said. "You are a woman equal to finding a place to park at White Hart Lane! You are made of stern stuff!"

So I watched the Oscar-winning documentary, When We Were Kings (about the Ali-Foreman Rumble in the Jungle), Martin Scorsese's Raging Bull ("He ain't pretty no more") and Harry Carpenter's Boxing Bedlam.

All were instructional, though mainly for finding out how many ways I could knit my fingers in front of my eyes while praying for the hitting to stop. The Harry Carpenter video was the most alarming, the equivalent of a motorway madness compilation.

So I approach the whole thing with a Cassandra-ish alarm, struck by the force of its simple inevitability. Cry woe as much as you like, it's like being in the path of a train. Evander Holyfield and Lennox Lewis — two men with designs on each other's living daylights — will meet each other on Saturday night head-on, and that's that.

No wonder the boxing world has all those growled apocalyptic overtones of "Judgement Night" and "Armageddon Afternoon". This thing is just as unavoidable now for the people concerned as Arie Bedell's Bar Mitzvah was for him. We can only pray (know what I mean, Harry?) that Holyfield and Lewis don't similarly overdo the chopped liver.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Cambridge favoured again for honours

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

AFTER five wins in six years, Cambridge enter the nineteenth University match at the Athletic Ground, Richmond, tonight in the familiar position of favourites to keep their stranglehold over Oxford.

The nearest that Oxford came to breaking the sequence was a 22-22 draw in 1994. Nine of the Oxford starting XIII have lost to Cambridge before and John Hobart, man of the match last year, is more anxious than most to set the record straight after four frustrating appearances.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: **G Peacocke** (St Patrick's College, Silverstream, New Zealand and Hughes Hall), **P Fulton** (Ballymena Academy and St Catherine's), **F Jarvis** (KCS, Wimbledon and Christ's), **M Hilton** (Dame Allan's, Newcastle and Caius, captain), **F Moore** (Worth and Caius); **P Moran** (Auckland GS, New Zealand and Hughes Hall), **N Thwaites** (Bradford GS and Jesus), **A Foote** (Radley and Christ's), **R Jones** (Queen Elizabeth Boys, Barnet and Magdalene), **S Rodgers** (The Leys and Homerton), **A Brown** (King Edward's, Camphill and Downing), **H Harris** (St John's, Leatherhead and Christ's), **M Count** (St Bartholomew's, Newbury and Jesus). **Substitutes:** **J Hughes** (Greshams and Peterhouse), **B Dixon** (Stockport GS and Caius), **R George** (Fishguard HS and St Edmund's), **T Blathwayt** (Prior Park and St John's).

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: **I Melling** (Winstanley VI Form Coll and Hertford), **I Ramsbottom** (Carmel Coll, St Helens and St Catherine's), **J Parker** (King's, Worcester and St Hugh's), **S Yarrow** (Allerton Grange and St Cross), **K Moore** (Wellington College and St Catherine's), **M Garside** (Manchester GS and St Hugh's), **G Jones** (Dean Close and Balliol, captain), **J Hobart** (St Edmond's and Keble), **S Farmer** (Bangor GS and Pembroke), **A Kocen** (Haberdashers' Aske's and Brasenose), **A Wright** (King Edward VI, Southampton and Greyfriars), **J Shires** (St John Fisher and St Anne's), **B Molyneux** (Winstanley VI Form Coll and St Catherine's). **Substitutes:** **G Graham** (Ralph Allen School and Lady Margaret Hall), **P Trotter** (Hurstpierpoint and Balliol), **A Guthrie** (Warwick and Pembroke), **T Tagoe** (Lancing and Westminster).

Referee: R Connolly (Wigan).

RUGBY UNION: WEEKEND INTERNATIONALS REFLECT TREND TOWARDS REFEREEING ACCORD

Shared songsheet produces close harmony

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IT IS no hardship to hark back to the Five Nations Championship matches in Paris and Dublin on Saturday: France and Wales produced a classic international replete with attacking rugby, Ireland and England a more restrained episode in which defence was the key. The casual viewer might judge the first to be the ideal game, the second a more stodgy affair as notable for the referee's whistle as for anything.

Yet the number of penalty awards handed out by the two referees, Jim Fleming in Paris and Paddy O'Brien in Dublin, was almost the same at 34 and 36. It may be early days but one conclusion that could be drawn is that the gap in interpretation of the laws between the hemispheres has at last closed and that, just in time for the World Cup this autumn, a global approach has been adopted.

Statistics for last season had already hinted at that, in any case: they showed that, no matter from which hemisphere the referee came, the stoppage counts were nearly the same.

Over the weekend Fleming, from Scotland, was as strict in the application of law 18 — the tackle law — as was O'Brien, his New Zealand counterpart, because they, like their colleagues on the merit-based panel established by the International Rugby Board (IRB), are determined to apply the charter for playing the game issued by the board in 1997 and keep players on their feet.

The initial problem was the Super 12 tournament, which had been such a success with the southern-hemisphere public, in part because of the "liberal" attitude of match officials.

Already this year, however, there have been complaints that Super 12 matches are being refereed differently, that scorelines — and crowds — are down; in fact, the tournament is probably being refereed according to the laws. "We have said for some time there is nothing wrong with the laws so long as they are interpreted properly," Fleming said yesterday.

Steve Griffiths, the IRB referee development officer, is loath to admit, on the evidence of one weekend's rugby, that match officials are at last singing from the same songsheet. "I do think the merit-based system has led to a greater degree of consistency," Griffiths said.

"The various conferences on the game have helped, too, giving referees, coaches and players the chance to come together and review whether the game is being played according to the charter, and what can be done in refereeing and coaching terms before we look at the laws."

Referees have learnt to manage games differently. O'Brien tells the story of arriving in England a few seasons ago and being given a derby between Bristol and Gloucester to handle, before an international commitment. In that dog-eat-dog environment, he realised that his management skills were insufficient and adapted his approach. His countryman, Colin Hawke, who will handle the England-France championship match at Twickenham on March 20 has done the same.

The game will be the better for it. If Saturday proved anything, it is that teams with a positive attitude can produce classic rugby. France v Wales 1999 compares favourably with, for example, the 26-26 draw played by England and New Zealand two years ago, a match handled by Fleming.

It could even stand comparison with the brilliance of Australia v France in 1987, were it not for the circumstances in which that match in Sydney was played, France, the winners, reaching the final of the inaugural World Cup. That encounter, too, was refereed by a Scot, Brian Anderson.

"If two teams want to play rugby, it makes the referee's job that much easier," Fleming said. "I didn't have to interfere. I could play advantage quite liberally because both teams had a positive attitude."

□ Senior players at Swansea, who contributed six players to Wales's winning team in Paris, have asked for a meeting with club officials to discuss the club's future. The actions of Swansea and Cardiff, who left the Welsh League this season to play Anglo-Welsh matches, will be discussed by the Welsh Rugby Union general committee on Thursday.



O'Brien, right, has shown a willingness to adapt his style

Stay of execution for Richmond

BY MARK SOUSTER

AT LEAST a third of the support staff at Richmond face the possibility of redundancy after administrators yesterday took over the running of the club. However, in the short term, and with a potentially lucrative cup semi-final and possible final on the horizon, the playing squad of 32 will not be affected.

As officials moved in from Buckler, Phillips and Traynor, the players, led by Ben Clarke, the captain, met with Tony Dorman, the president, and Tony Hallett, a non-executive director. Clarke, the former England flanker, is issuing a statement today that reiterates that the team remains committed to the club and in a positive frame of mind.

Yesterday a High Court judge granted the club's applicaton to go into administration, which effectively enables them to continue trading and gives Hallett breathing space to seek new investment. Hallett said: "We can finance ourselves until the end of the season but need £2 million after that to keep the players together. That has to be the priority."

He continued: "Hopefully, once we have attracted that investment, and the omens are good, we can exit from administration a leaner and meaner machine. Everyone is pulling together, we have 62 days left of the season, nine league matches and hopefully two cup-ties, and we intend to win them all. If we do, we are sure we could attract financial support."

Newcastle, whom Richmond meet at the Madejski Stadium on April 3 for a place in the Tetley's Bitter Cup final, are optimistic that a consortium headed by Rob Andrew and backed by two prominent businessmen will gain control this week. Sir John Hall has indicated that he will sell the Falcons for a token £1 and write off his £5 million investment, on top of another £4 million in the Newcastle basketball and ice hockey clubs. This year's £150,000 instalment on the transfer of Va'aiga Tuigamala from Wigan has been paid. Another £300,000 is outstanding.

□ Massimo Giovanelli, the Italy captain, has announced his intention to appeal against the two-month ban for stamping on Eric Peters, of Scotland, at Murrayfield on Saturday.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership
Arsenal v Sheffield Wednesday (7.45)

Nationwide League
First division
Bolton v Barnsley (8.0)
Bradford v Sunderland (7.45)
Bristol City v Bury (7.45)
Crystal Palace v Ipswich (7.45)
Grimsby v QPR (7.45)
Norwich v Port Vale (7.45)
Oxford Utd v Huddersfield (7.45)
Portsmouth v Sheffield Utd (7.45)
Stockport v Swindon (7.45)
Tranmere v Birmingham (7.45)
Wolverhampton v Crewe (7.45)

Second division
Bournemouth v Bristol Rovers (7.45)
Burnley v Manchester City (7.45)
Colchester v Oldham (7.45)
Lincoln v Wrexham (7.45)
Luton v Fulham (7.45)
Macclesfield v Gillingham (7.45)
Notts County v Wycombe (7.45)
York v Blackpool (7.45)

Third division
Barnet v Carlisle (7.45)
Brentford v Peterborough (7.45)
Brighton v Cardiff (7.45)
Cambridge United v Hull (7.45)
Chester v Scarborough
Halifax v Scunthorpe (7.45)
Hartlepool v Leyton Orient
Mansfield v Exeter (7.45)
Plymouth v Torquay (7.45)
Shrewsbury v Rotherham (7.45)
Swansea v Darlington (7.45)

Nationwide Conference
Cheltenham v Hereford (7.45)
Doncaster v Northwich (7.45)
Hayes v Forest Green (7.45)
Kettering v Farnborough (7.45)
Kingstonian v Kidderminster (7.45)
Rushden and D v Stevenage (7.45)

Auto Windscreens Shield
Southern area final
First leg
Millwall v Walsall (7.45)

Scottish League
Third division
Dumbarton v Albion
Ross County v Brechin

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Fifth-round replay: Southport v Woking (7.45).

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: **Premier division:** Dorchester v Burton Albion; Gloucester v Merthyr; Grantham v Hastings; King's Lynn v Bath City. **Southern division:** Ashford v Dartford; Baldock v Margate; Bashley v Witney. **Midland division:** Moor Green v Clevedon; Redditch v Weston-super-Mare. **League Cup:** **Fourth round:** Cambridge City v St Leonards. **Third round:** Bedworth Utd v *Sutton Coldfield.*

UNIBOND LEAGUE: **Premier division:** Altrincham v Runcorn; Colwyn Bay v Hyde; Leigh RMI v Guiseley. **First division:** Eastwood Town v Lincoln United. **President's Cup:** **Semi-final, first leg:** Droylsden v Stalybridge (7.45)

RYMAN LEAGUE: **Premier division:** Carshalton v Aylesbury (7.45), Enfield v Basingstoke; Gravesend v Hendon, Hampton v Harrow. **First division:** Berkhamsted v Oxford City; Leyton Pennant v Leatherhead; *Staines v Croydon; Wembley v Chertsey;* Whyteleafe v Bognor Regis, Worthing v Yeading. **Second division:** Abingdon Town v Hemel Hempstead, Edgware v Harlow, Hungerford v Wivenhoe; Tooting and Mitcham v Hertford; Windsor and Eton v Bracknell, Wokingham v Northwood. **Third division:** Camberley Town v Croydon Athletic; East Thurrock v Tilbury; Egham v Wingate and Finchley; Epsom and Ewell v Clapton, Ford Utd v Kingsbury; Hornchurch v Lewes. **League Cup:** **Fourth round:** Boreham Wood v Marlow; Maidenhead v Sutton United. **Third round:** Chesham v Bromley. ***Puma Cup:*** **Fourth round:** Dulwich Hamlet v Wealdstone; Hitchin v Purfleet.

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: **Fifth round:** Aston Villa v Watford.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: **Premier division:** Derby v Preston (2.0).

LEAGUE OF WALES: *Afan Lido v Barry;* Caersws v TNS; Connah's Quay v Bangor City.

SCHWEPPES ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: **Premier division:** Concord Rangers v Saffron Walden, Hullbridge Sports v Burnham Ramblers; Sawbridgeworth v Basildon U; Southend Manor v Stansted.

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: **Premier division:** Abingdon v Banbury; Bicester v Highworth.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: **First division:** Dunston Federation v Chester-le-Street; Morpeth Town v Consett.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: **Premier division:** Faversham v Deal; Greenwich v VCD; Sheppey v Hythe; Tunbridge Wells v Beckenham.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: **Premier division:** Bridport v Tiverton, Mangotsfield Utd v Keynsham, Odd Down v Calne.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: **Premier division:** Arlesey Town v New Bradwell St Peter, Beaconsfield Sycob v Haringey; Brimsdown v Ruislip Manor, Harpenden v Potters Bar Town; St Margaretsbury v Welwyn Garden; Waltham Abbey v Royston.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: **Premier division:** Cove v Godalming and Guildford, Reading Town v Westfield; Walton Casuals v Hartley Wintney.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: **Premier division:** Ely v Warboys; Harwich and Parkeston v Woodbridge Town; *Histon v Diss;* Soham v Felixstowe Port and Town; Wroxham v Lowestoft.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: **First division:** Bemerton Heath v Afc Newbury; Wimborne v Downton. **League Cup:** **Semi-final, first leg:** Lymington and New Milton v Moneyfields.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: **Premier division:** Blackstone v Boston; Potton v Yaxley; S and L Corby v Spalding.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Pelsall V v Barwell; Pershore Town v Kings Norton; Willenhall v Chasetown.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: **Premier division:** Buxton v Pontefract Cols; Liversedge v Eccleshill.

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: **First division:** Atherton LR v Ramsbottom; Glossop North End v St Helens Town; Leek CSOB v Cheadle; Vauxhall GM v Salford.

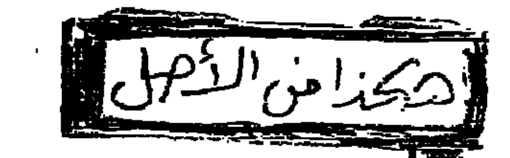
RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE: **Premier division:** Ebbw Vale v Aberavon (7.0), Llanelli v Bridgend (7.0). **First division:** Cross keys v Pontypool (7.0).

CLUB MATCH: Sale v Scottish Districts (7.45).

RUGBY LEAGUE

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP: Hull KR v Oldham (7.30)



Anfield schooling hones Bradford Jewell

BY STEPHEN WOOD

PAUL JEWELL, the manager of Bradford City, admits that he "probably bores people to death" with recollections of his early playing days at Liverpool. But what he learnt is finally coming good, and if it helps Bradford to an unlikely promotion this season, the people of West Yorkshire will not be able to get enough of Paisley, Dalglish, Rush, et al.

Jewell has endured a steep learning curve since taking on the job at Valley Parade at the end of last season and, tonight, the ambition of he and his team faces its toughest single test; a visit from Sunderland, the Nationwide League first division leaders.

It is one of another round of fascinating matches in the first division programme. At least ten clubs have realistic hopes of earning promotion to the FA Carling Premiership. Whatever the outcome, Jewell has experienced an about-turn in fortunes that few predicted. After a summer spent strengthening the squad, Jewell and Bradford garnered five points from seven games. Jewell was under pressure then, as he is now. "You keep your feet on the ground and make sure there is no complacency," he said. "It's something I picked up from my Liverpool days." Dean Windass, the striker, was acquired for £1.2 million from Oxford United last week, and he could make his debut tonight.

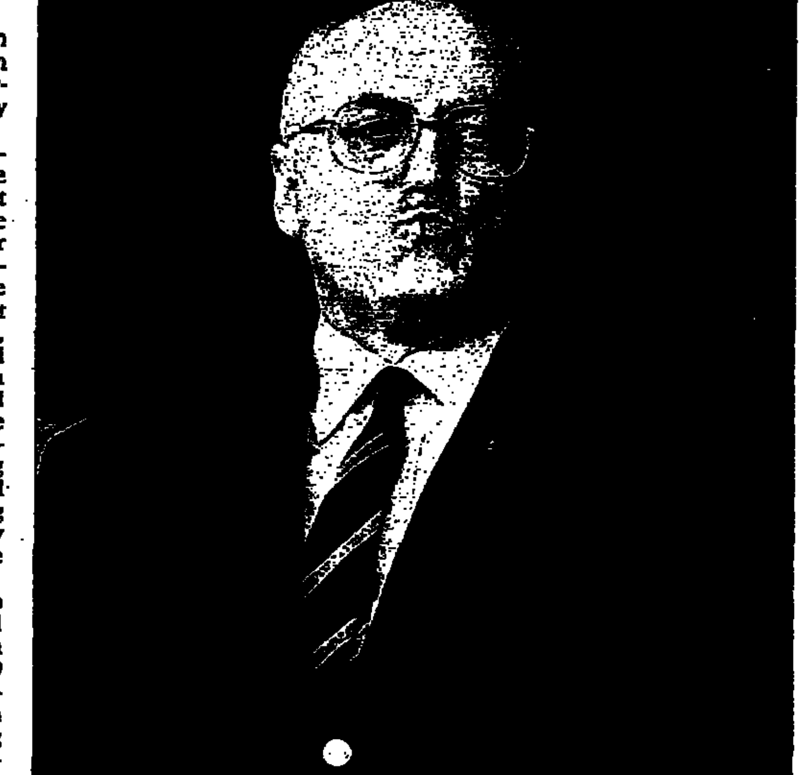
Sunderland, who trounced Bradford 4-0 in the corresponding fixture last season, are nine points clear of the chasers and Peter Reid, the manager, admits they are within touching distance of the FA Carling Premiership. Ipswich Town, the team in second place, must not lose to Crystal Palace if they wish to retain it by tonight.

Birmingham City travel to Tranmere Rovers knowing that three points and a defeat for Bradford will increase the pressure on the top four. Bolton Wanderers have looked anything but promotion hopefuls in their last two matches but a win at home to Barnsley appears necessary if they are to go forward and claim the second automatic promotion place.

Fantasy League updates....44

Swift end for Farry at Hampden

BY PHIL GORDON



OWEN HUMPHREYS / CHRIS BACON

Farry, left, was dismissed for negligence in the transfer of Cadete, right, but his dictatorial methods may have contributed more to his going

JIM FARRY'S nine-year reign as the figurehead of Scottish football came to an end yesterday with a cruel twist of irony at Hampden Park.

The Scottish Football Association's (SFA) chief executive was dismissed from his job at the famous old ground whose rebirth he had overseen, after being found guilty of negligence in the Jorge Cadete transfer affair. His errors cost the SFA more than £130,000, plus legal costs, after they had to settle a compensation claim with Celtic. Celtic had waged a three-year battle to prove that Farry had delayed Cadete's move from Sporting Lisbon, which they claimed prevented them from using the Portugal forward in key league and cup games in the run-in to 1995-96 season.

Farry was not allowed to attend the SFA full council meeting at Hampden which decided his fate. Only the 49 members filed into the stadium which Farry had striven to revamp from a crumbling wreck into a modern £60 million arena. Indeed, Farry, 44, would have been expected to present the Scottish Cup there in just 11 weeks, when the cup final returns to Hampden after three years.

However, a previous cup final appearance perhaps indicated how the general football public would have reacted to Farry's exit yesterday. He was jeered by the crowd at the Kilmarnock-Falkirk final after declaring that neither side would be allowed to celebrate in front of their fans. Tabloid newspapers dubbed him the "most hated man in Scottish football" and, while he had a dry wit, there was little doubt that his pompous language and killjoy attitude combined to ensure he was not a man of the people.

He achieved greater contempt outside football in September 1997 when he refused to change the timing of Scotland's World Cup qualifying tie at home to Belarus, which clashed with the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, although the game was subsequently postponed for 24 hours. In fairness, Farry was a prisoner of world football bureaucracy on that occasion.

Farry, though, did not court friends, particularly with either of the powerful Old Firm clubs. His decision to hold on to Hampden as Scotland's national stadium upset both Celtic and Rangers, who had invested millions of pounds in rebuilding Celtic Park and Ibrox.

However, Farry's downfall was to continue the SFA's long history of acting in a dictatorial manner, and when he crossed swords with Fergus McCann once too often the Celtic chairman fixed Farry in his sights and used the Cadete "negligence" as ammunition.

It took only an hour yesterday for the full committee to endorse a decision made by the executive committee last Friday that Farry's contract be terminated. Farry, who claims his faxes to the SFA in the last week seeking a chance to explain were ignored, says he had fresh evidence to present. Celtic, for one, would be greatly interested in why such evidence did not surface over the past three years.

Tony Higgins, the secretary of the players' union, said yesterday: "Anyone who knows Jim Farry knows that rules are adhered to strictly. So it is surprising that rules have been his downfall."

While Jack McGinn, the SFA president, will take temporary charge, the task of finding a successor is unlikely to be easy. Campbell Ogilvie, Rangers' secretary-director, a skilled administrator who influenced the creation of the Champions' League, is the favoured choice.

However, David Murray, the Rangers chairman, said: "While I can recognise why many other bodies may wish to employ him [Ogilvie], Rangers would not even consider letting him go."

Other contenders could be Roger Mitchell, the chief executive of the Scottish Premier League, and Peter Donald, who succeeded Farry at the Scottish League in 1990.

Ronaldo makes welcome return for Inter

■ Manchester United got the news they have been dreading last night when Internazionale, their European Cup quarter-final opponents, signalled the beginning of the comeback of Ronaldo by including him in their squad to face Parma in Serie A tonight.
Ronaldo, who has been absent for more than six weeks with a knee injury, has not been involved in any of Inter's recent plans and did not even travel to Old Trafford. He will, however, be among the 20-man party that goes to Parma as they try to restore morale following their first-leg defeat to United and a 1-0 loss at home to Bari on Sunday. They have now slipped to seventh in Serie A, 16 points behind the leaders, Lazio.

■ Leeds United have been attacked by Soccer Australia after signing teenager Jamie McMaster. McMaster, whose parents emigrated from Scotland in the late 1960s, was captured by Leeds at the start of the season after being educated at one of Australia's two centres of football excellence.
Les Scheinflug, the Soccer Australia Youth coach, said: "These English clubs are like robbers, stealing our best young players, then blackmailing them to play for England, Scotland or whoever."

FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

■ Wembley will host the FA Cup semi-final between Arsenal and Chelsea if Gianluca Vialli's side beat Manchester United in their quarter-final replay.
The Football Association has decided that if the semi-final is between the two London sides, then the game will be played on Monday April 12.

■ Rugby's ten-yard advancement rule to punish dissent could be adopted by Fifa, football's world governing body, within two years after a successful pilot scheme in Jersey. Fifa are backing an idea allowing referees to move a free-kick ten yards closer to goal if players argue with a decision or refuse to retreat.

■ *Bryan Robson*, the Middlesborough manager, has confirmed an interest in Lee Hughes, the West Bromwich Albion striker.

Wembley future more rosy

BY JOHN GOODBODY

ANOTHER hurdle was cleared yesterday for the rebuilding of Wembley Stadium, the key element in England's bid for the 2006 World Cup and 2003 athletics world championships.

The chairman and executive directors of Wembley plc decided to press ahead with the shareholders' vote at an extraordinary general meeting to sell the national stadium, despite a last-minute conditional cash offer from SFX, an American sports promotion company.

SFX wanted to delay the meeting by 30 days to consider making a formal proposal to acquire Wembley plc for £218 million while it vetted the company's books.

However, the board is worried that the £106-million offer for the stadium alone from the English National Stadium Development Company, a joint venture between the English Sports Council and the Football Association, will lapse on March 15.

Last month Alec McGivan, the director of the 2006 World Cup campaign, had said he did not want any further delay because it might damage England's hopes of staging the tournament.

The FA has to meet a deadline of July this year to provide written details of the bid to Fifa, the world governing body for football, and that must include complete details of the new national stadium, which would hold many of the matches in 2006, including the final. A decision on the location of the 2003 world athletics championships will be made in November.

The chairman and executive directors of Wembley plc said after a board meeting yesterday that it continued to consider that it is in "the best interests" of the company to proceed with the sale of the stadium.

Meanwhile, Irvin Khoza, the chairman of the South African bid committee, said yesterday that he believes that Germany is favourite to be hosts for the tournament unless South Africa reduces its number of candidates from five to one. A decision will be made in March 2000.

Wenger looking upwards

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

AS THE FA Carling Premiership title race gathers momentum, the mind games have started. On Sunday, Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, and Gianluca Vialli, the Chelsea player-manager, suggested that the balance had shifted in Arsenal's favour. Yesterday, Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, said that he would rather be in United's position, leading the way.

It means little in the long run — only points mean prizes — but the psychological warfare usually adds a touch of spice to the jousting. "I think United are in the best position," Wenger said, ahead of Arsenal's match against Sheffield Wednesday at Highbury this evening. "We can exchange places if they want. I would take it. We have to win our games and see what happens."

Ferguson and Vialli glanced enviously in the direction of Arsenal, the champions, after United and Chelsea had drawn 0-0 in their FA Cup quarter-final at Old Trafford, requiring a second meeting at Stamford Bridge tomorrow.

United still hold the upper hand in the Premiership, four points in front of Chelsea and seven clear of Arsenal, who both have a game in hand. If Arsenal overcome Wednesday — one of only three sides to beat them in the league this season — they will leapfrog Chelsea on goal difference.

That 1-0 defeat at Hillsborough in September also featured the dismissals of Martin Keown, the Arsenal defender, and Paolo Di Canio, then a Wednesday striker, and Di Canio's subsequent push on Paul Alcock, the referee. Patrick Vieira, the Arsenal midfield player, was later fined for his involvement in an incident in the players' tunnel.

After 27 fixtures last season, Arsenal trailed United by nine points but had three games in hand. They then won nine successive matches to clinch the championship. "Our position is more difficult than last year," Wenger said. "We have the advantage of knowing we can do it but United and Chelsea have so much experience. We shall see."

SPORT IN BRIEF

Tchmil in pole position

■ **CYCLING:** Andrei Tchmil, the Belgian sprint specialist, won the second stage of the Paris-Nice race yesterday and took the overall leader's white jersey from Chris Boardman, of Great Britain. The 36-year-old Ukraine-born naturalised Belgian outsprinted a breakaway group at the end of the 184.7km stage from Nangis. Frank Vandenbroucke, the race favourite who won the race last year, suffered a puncture and lost almost two minutes.

■ **BOXING:** Herbie Hide, the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) world heavyweight champion, will defend his title, probably in June, against Vitali Klitschko, the European champion from Ukraine, Klaus-Peter Kohl, his trainer, said yesterday. The WBO imposed the bout on Hide after several weeks of negotiations between Kohl and Frank Warren, Hide's agent. The bout will be held in either Cologne or Hamburg.

■ **EQUESTRIANISM:** John Whitaker's former top horse, Gammon, on which he won the Hickstead Jumping Derby last August, has been put down after a short illness. The Oldenburg gelding, aged 22, who was owned by Whitaker's father-in-law Malcolm Barr, was moved to Liverpool Veterinary Hospital three weeks ago following a tear in the horse's rectum — a rare condition.

■ **SQUASH:** Scott Handley, the England No 19 and world No 103, has taken his first title on the PSA World Tour, beating Nick Matthew 15-11, 15-5, 15-8 in the all-English final of the Swiss Open championship in Geneva.

GOLF: NEW MAN CARRIES LUCRATIVE BAG AFTER COWAN FLUFFS HIS LINES IN MAGAZINE ARTICLE

Woods names his replacement caddie

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN MIAMI

TIGER WOODS ended two weeks of speculation yesterday when he named the man who will take over from Mike "Fluff" Cowan, his caddie for the past 2½ years. The man who will pick up probably the most lucrative caddying job in golf is Steve Williams, who has worked for Greg Norman and more recently Ray Floyd.

Woods's announcement put an end to the speculation that has been rife since Bryon Bell, a 23-year-old schoolfriend of Woods, carried Woods's bag during a strokeplay event in San Diego last month. It was the first time since Woods turned professional in August 1996 that he had not used Cowan. Two weeks later at the Andersen Consulting Match Play Championship at Carlsbad, California, Bell, a medical student, was again carrying the bag. At that time Woods parried questions about Parry's absence by saying he was pleased to be able to provide Bell with the money needed to get through medical school.

"Fluff and I have discussed this over the past few weeks and we both feel it is in our best interests to part ways," Woods said. "I appreciate the support Fluff has provided and recognise the contribution Fluff has made to my success as a professional but it is time to move on. I feel confident we will remain friends."

In the 2½ years Cowan caddied for Woods the prodigy won seven PGA Tour events, including the *1997 Masters*, and two events in Thailand.

Williams was recommended to Butch Harman, Woods's coach, by Floyd and Woods spoke first to Floyd and then to Williams. "I insisted this be handled the proper way," Woods said. "I did not want it to seem as though we were going behind anyone's back."



Woods: not pleased

The reason for the split of one of the best known partnerships in golf was felt to be the increasingly high profile that Cowan had been able to adopt. Cowan had not been on the top of his form, Woods alleged, and furthermore had become something of a cult figure, making commercials for a hotel chain, a television station and the World Golf Village.

Perhaps the final straw came when in a recent issue of *Golf Digest*, Cowan revealed his salary — a weekly retainer of $1,000 and between 8 and 10 per cent of Woods's winnings. *This revelation did not sit well* with Woods, who had fired his attorney and his agent since he has been a professional.

By naming Williams, Woods has silenced the rumours, most of which centred on British caddies. For two weeks Dave Renwick, a 45-year-old Scot, appeared to be the chosen one to replace Cowan. Renwick has caddied for three major championship winners in the past five years — José María Olazábal at the 1994 Masters and Steve Elkington and Vijay Singh in the 1995 and 1998 US PGA Championship respectively.

The longer the rumour-mongers worked, the more likely it seemed that Woods would make an unexpected choice. Woods does not like to be pressured, and the more Renwick and other British caddies were *mentioned, the less likely it* was that one of them would be the chosen one. Woods, as usual, had the last word.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Indiana 85 Miami 72; New York 97 New Jersey 86; Philadelphia 95 Washington 103 (OT); Toronto 105 Boston 92; Utah 89 Los Angeles Lakers 97; Denver 98 San Antonio 106; Portland 111 Houston 71; Sacramento 94 Dallas 89; Seattle 77 Minnesota 88.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Sunday: Birmingham Bullets 65 London Towers 76.

CRICKET

Asian Test championship
Pakistan v India

LAHORE (*final day of five*): Pakistan drew with Sri Lanka

PAKISTAN: First Innings 398 (Wajahatullah Wasti 133, Yousuf Youhana 83, Imran Nazir 64, Moin Khan 57; G P Wickremasinghe 6 for 103). Second Innings: 314 for 8 dec (Wajahatullah *121 not out*, Shahid Afridi 84).

SRI LANKA: First Innings 328 (R P Arnold 123, R S Kaluwitharana 100; Wasim Akram 4 for 30, Saqlain Mushtaq 4 for 82).

Second Innings

R P Arnold not out 56
A Gunawardene lbw b Shahid Nazir 36
D P M D Jayawardene c Moin b Wasim 50
M S Atapattu not out 8
Extras (lb 11, nb 5) 16
Total (2 wkts) 165

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 13-2-39-1; Fazl-e-Akbar 9-1-27-0; Saqlain Mushtaq 21.1-8-53-0; Shahid Nazir 8-0-27-1.

Man of the match: Wajahatullah Wasti.

Umpires: R E Koertzen (South Africa) and D R Shepherd (England).

Tour match
President's XI v England A

CAPE TOWN (*final day of five*): England A *beat President's XI by 46 runs*

ENGLAND A: First Innings 350 (D L Maddy 135, A Flintoff 70). Second Innings 288 (Flintoff 80, M B Loye 60).

PRESIDENT'S XI: First Innings 199 (C C Bradfield 61, D N Crookes 52)

Second Innings

M L Bruyns c Swann b Harmison 8
C C Bradfield c Solanki b Harmison 14
H H Dippenaar lbw b Cosker 10
M van Jaarsveld c Flintoff b Cosker 147
F C Brooker c Maddy b Swann 56
*D N Crookes c Windows b Harmison 37
J M Kemp not out 61
† L Mesikazana c Windows b Swann 6
S Abrahams c Solanki b Harmison 20
D H Townsend c Read b Thomas 0
G J Smith lbw b Cosker 15
Extras (b 3, lb 14, w 1, nb 1) 19
Total 393

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-25, 3-58, 4-176, 5-282, 6-292, 7-316, 8-356, 9-361

BOWLING: Harmison 30-7-79-4; Thomas 22-4-74-1; Swann 30-7-78-2; Cosker 36.4-5-87-3; Flintoff 16-3-47-0; Solanki 4-0-11-0.

Umpires: D F Becker and R Brooks.

SUPERSPORT SERIES: East London: Final: Western Province 302 (E Simons 75, A Dawson 143; T Henderson 4-82) and 249 (H D Ackerman 98 not out; V C Drakes 5-48); Border 191 (S Pope 61) and 197. Western Province beat Border by 163 runs.

CYCLING

PARIS-NICE RACE: Second stage (194.7km, Nangis to Sens): 1, A Tchmil (Bel) 4hr 42min 24sec; equal 2, M Zberg (Switz), L van Bon (Holl) and S O'Grady (Aus); 5, A Merckx (Bel); 6, M Boogerd (Holl) and 7, E Dekker (Holl) all same time; 8, R Sorensen (Den); 9, M Den Bakker (Holl); 10, M Wauters (Bel) all at 3sec.

FOOTBALL

ARGENTINE LEAGUE: San Lorenzo 2 Platense 1; Belgrano 3 Independiente 3, Boca Juniors 3 Ferrocarril Oeste 0, Newell's Old Boys 4 Rosario Central 1, Huracan 0 Lanus 2; Gimnasia Esgrima 0 Union 5; Gimnasia Jujuy 0 Argentinos 2; Velez Sarsfield 0 River Plate 1.

BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: São Paulo 2 Guarani 2; Portuguesa 3 Portugesa Santista 1; Palmeiras 1 Santos 1; Rio Branco 3 Barbarense 1; Internacional Limeira 3 Mogi Mirim 1; Matonense 2 Corinthians 4

FA WOMENS CUP: Semi-final draw: Southampton Saints v Tranmere Rovers; Doncaster Belles or Croydon v Arsenal

□ Ties to be played April 4.

GOLF

MIAMI, Florida: Doral-Ryder Open: Leading final scores (US unless stated). *275:* S Elkington (Aus) 72, 70, 69, 64. *276:* G Kraft 68, 67, 70, 71. *277:* D Toms 70, 73, 67, 67; T Armour III 67, 71, 71, 68, J Haas 70, 69, 70, 68; E Els (SA) 71, 68, 70, 70; S Dunlap 67, 72, 69, 69. *278:* D Briggs 71, 72, 68, 67; P H Horgan 68, 70, 71, 69. *279:* G Hjertstedt (Swe) 69, 72, 71, 67; N Price (Zim) 72, 69, 70, 68; G Hill 71, 69, 70, 69; G Chalmers (Aus) 71, 66, 72, 70; G Day 69, 71, 67, 72. *280:* N Lancaster 71, 72, 72, 65; J Parnevik (Swe) 71, 70, 70, 69; R Tway 72, 71, 68, 69; J Leonard 72, 69, 68, 71

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 1 New York Rangers 3; Dallas 4 St Louis 3. Pittsburgh 1 Colorado 1; Buffalo 1 Philadelphia 1 (OT); Anaheim 3 Detroit 1, Phoenix 4 Nashville 3, Vancouver 2 Chicago 2 (OT). New York Islanders 2 New Jersey 4.

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Sunday: Bracknell Bees 5 Ayr Scottish Eagles 4, *London Knights 2 Newcastle Riverkings 8.*

NETBALL

ENGLISH COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Derbyshire 45 Bedfordshire 55. Surrey 55 Kent 51. Birmingham 30 Essex Met 61; East Essex 25 Middlesex 49. **Positions:** 1, Middlesex 30pts, 2, Essex Met 26. 3, Derbyshire 23. 4, Bedfordshire 22. 5, Surrey 18; 6, Kent 14, 7, Birmingham 4; 8, East Essex 3

RUGBY FIVES

ST PAUL'S SCHOOL, Barnes: National under-13 championships: Singles: Quarter-finals: M Kovacevich (Christ's Hospital) bt I Stoneham (Sutton Valence) 11-0; S Evans (Clifton) bt P Boardman (Christ's Hospital) 11-1, A Love (Pilgrims) bt A Langstone (Clifton) 11-2; N Mason-Malik (Stoke Newington) bt H Mohammed (Pilgrims) 11-1 **Semi-finals:** Kovacevich bt Evans 11-3; Mason-Malik bt Love 11-6 **Final:** Kovacevich bt *Mason-Malik* 11-3, 11-1. *Doubles:* **Semi-finals:** Clifton II bt Christ's Hospital I 11-6; Clifton I bt Pilgrims I 11-7. **Final:** Clifton I (Evans and Langstone) bt Clifton II (E Slack and R Michallat) 11-5, 11-0

RUGBY LEAGUE

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL LEAGUE: First round: Sydney City 16 Auckland Warriors 28.

SNOOKER

SHANGHAI: China International: Wild card play-offs: Pang Wei Guo (China) bt P Lines (Eng) 5-1, D Finbow (Eng) bt R Shen (China) 5-2; A Davies (Wales) bt Zhang Xai (China) 5-4; M Holt (Eng) bt Y J Ann (China) 5-1. **First round:** A Hamilton (Eng) bt J Birch (Eng) 5-2, S Lee (Eng) bt D Henry (Scot) 5-1; R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt B Jones (Eng) 5-3, P Davies (Wales) bt A Drago (Malta) 5-0; M King (Eng) bt P Hunter (Eng) 5-0

SQUASH

GENEVA: Swiss Open Championships: Men: Semi-finals: S Handley (Eng) bt M Benjamin (Wales) 15-8, 5-15, 15-5, 15-8, N Matthew (Eng) bt E McAlpine (Eng) 13-15, 15-6, 15-12, 15-11 **Final:** Handley bt Matthew 15-11, 15-5, 15-8 **Women: Semi-finals:** R Grinham (Aus) bt C Cogan (Eng) 9-1, 9-0, 9-1, C Waddell (Scot) bt A Naude (SA) 9-3, 9-10, 9-3, 9-4 **Final:** Grinham bt Waddell 9-2, 9-6, 9-3

CHICAGO: Windy City Open: Semi-finals: S Meads (Eng) bt N Dugan (Eng) 15-8, 15-5, 15-8; K Patrick (Can) bt V Sistonen (Fin) 15-5, 15-11, 15-9 **Final:** Meads bt Patrick 15-11, 15-7, 15-8.

DENVER: Art of Squash Championships: Semi-finals: L Joyce (NZ) bt L Khan (US) 9-7, 9-6, 9-0. T Bailey (Eng) bt J Thacker (Eng) 6-9, 9-1, 9-2, 7-9, 10-8. **Final:** Joyce bt Bailey 9-3, 9-1, 9-3.

TENNIS

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona: Franklin Templeton Classic: Final: J-M Gambill (US) bt L Hewitt (Aus) 7-6, 4-6, 6-4.

INDIAN WELLS, California: WTA Evert Cup: Second round: S Williams (US) bt L Davenport (US) 6-4, 6-2; S Graf (Ger) bt K Hrdlickova (Cz) 6-1, 6-2, A Sugiyama (Japan) bt L Raymond (US) 7-6, 7-5, B Rippner (US) bt B Rittner (Ger) 6-4, 6-4, R Grande (It) bt L Osterloh (US) 6-4, 6-4 J Novotna (Cz) bt M J Fernandez (US) 6-0, 6-3; M Pierce (Fr) bt A Frazier (US) 6-0, 6-3; S Testud (Fr) bt O Barabanschikova (Bela) 7-6, 6-0; C Black (Zim) bt I Spirlea (Rom) 6-7, 6-4, 7-5; H Nagyova (Slovakia) bt S Farina (It) 6-2, 6-4; A Coetzer (SA) bt J Halard-Decugis (Fr) 6-4, 6-7, 7-6, C Rubin (US) bt C Martinez (Sp) 6-3, 6-4, P Schnyder (Switz) bt A Molik (Aus) 3-6, 6-1, 6-3.

HOCKEY

Cambridge look for old magic

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

TWENTY years have passed since David Westcott led Oxford to a crushing 6-1 victory over Cambridge in the annual men's University match at Lord's. The event was moved to Reading in 1991 and now, for the third year in succession, it is to be played today at Milton Keynes, the 99th match of the series.

In 1997 Cambridge broke a six-year sequence of Oxford's successes by winning 2-0, but last year Oxford recovered the treasured trophy with a 4-0 *victory. The consensus is that* it will be a more closely-fought contest this time.

Both teams completed their preparation over the weekend, Oxford with a 3-1 victory over Isca in the National League first division to mark the official opening of their artificial turf pitch at Iffley Road. But earlier Oxford had achieved a more significant 3-2 win over Lewes, who had reached the quarter-finals of the EHA Cup before losing 4-3 to Cannock.

Cambridge drew 2-2 against Crostyx in the East League premier division and are third in the table, but they can take comfort from their 5-3 victory over the Army, who held Oxford goalless in the run-up to the big match.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: C Andrews (Birkenhead School and Brasenose), *P Barker (Radley and Trinity), E Bevan (Gorseinen College and Pembroke), *D Eadie (Cape Town University and St Edmund Hall, captain), N Pirihi (Waikato University and Merton), *M Darbon (Bedford School and Worcester), *P Atkinson (RGS Newcastle and Queen's), E Whitworth (Kingston GS and Brasenose), *T Matthews (Hillsroad 6th Form and St Edmund Hall), M Mayer (The Perse and St Edmund Hall), *T Johnson (Whitgift and Jesus)
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: M Harris (Bedford School and Trinity), *P Outram (Marlborough and Queens'), P Dodd (Simon Langton GS and Caius), *R Hudson (Bishop's Stortford College and Jesus, captain), S Gray (Eastbourne College and Ridley Hall), G Weir (Bournemouth GS and Fitzwilliam), *A Cotton (Bishop's Stortford College and Jesus), *T Gruslin (European School of Brussels and Trinity), J Costelloe (Cookstown HS and Hughes Hall), *A Laird (Magdalen CS, Oxford and Caius), I McClive (Guiseley School and St Catharine's)
* denotes Blue

Oxford are short of experience

BY CATHY HARRIS

IF THE number of Blues is a guide, Cambridge, with 11 in their squad, should start the annual women's University match at Milton Keynes today as firm favourites to retain the trophy for the fourth year running. Oxford have only five in their line-up.

Both captains admit that winning is important, but there is a little more to this occasion than collecting a trophy. Since the inaugural match at Wimbledon Common in 1894 the women have *rarely been given a share of* the spotlight and the fixture was all too often relegated to an unfashionable venue on a date which clashed with National League games.

That is, until last year when the men's and women's matches were staged on the same day at the National Stadium. The initiative met with universal approval, helping the women gain much-needed respectability and adding prestige and atmosphere to the day.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: R Illingworth (British School of Paris and Keble), N Ornige (Croydon HS and Jesus), S Mackie (Peter Symonds College, Winchester and Pembroke), *C McKenna (Nottingham HS for Girls and Magdalen, captain), K Hampson (West Kirby GS and St Anne's), *G Traub (Victoria College, Belfast and Keble), *V Pope (Plymouth College and Pembroke), J Broers (Furze Platt School, Maidenhead and Christ Church), E Kingstone (New College, Swindon and Pembroke), *N Jacobsen (St Hilda's C of E HS, Liverpool and Green), H Brooks (Fallibroome HS, Macclesfield and Worcester), *J Connell (Langley Park School for Girls, Beckenham and Worcester), R White (Cheltenham Ladies and Brasenose), A Sherwood (Uppingham and Worcester), B Watts (Millfield and Queen's), S Baker (Leeds HS for Girls and St Catherine's)
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: *C Wright (St Catherine's, Melbourne and St Catharine's), *E Ellwood (The King's HS for Girls, Warwick and Jesus), *R Meredith (Bablake School and King's), *F Panizza (Colchester County HS and Churchill), J Belcher (Deterrers HS, Burton on Trent and Newnham), *M Sherlock (Lincoln Christ's Hospital School and Girton), *R Joyner (Bryanston and Downing), *H Mansfield (King Edward VI, Louth and Clare), H Coles (Oxford HS and Queens'), *J Doble (Howells School and Emmanuel), *T Nancoo (Millfield and Caius), *N Redpath (Hills Road VIth Form Coll and St Edmund's), *E Ansley (Headington School and Caius), E Kirschen (Sutton HS and Downing), H Dent (Wimbledon HS and Fitzwilliam), A MacDonald (Oundle and Pembroke).
* denotes a Blue

World indoor championships haul is value for money

More lottery gold for medals

From David Powell
Athletics Correspondent
in Maebashi, Japan

BRITISH athletics, enjoying the returns of its success, expects to receive some £18 million over the next six years from National Lottery sports funding in an attempt to maintain the boom period.

Max Jones, the Great Britain performance director, said here after the country's best performance in the world indoor championships that the rich harvest of success last year had been influential in the £2.4 million funding received in the past being increased to about £3 million a year.

Jones submitted ambitious targets for British medal success as part of his performance plan.

Did this not bring pressure to his job? he was asked. "I would rather have pressure than no money," he replied. "For three million a year, they should expect to get something back in the long term."

Britain won nine gold medals at the European championships in Budapest last summer and three in Maebashi with a squad missing a great many of its stars. "Everybody was saying that last year was a European year," Jones said, indicating that some people had doubted Britain's ability to succeed on the world stage.

"Coming here and winning world medals was psychologically a very good thing for all of us. It sets it up nicely for the summer, like Valencia did last year." The European indoor championships in Valencia started the ball rolling, quickly followed by team and individual medals at the world cross-country championships.

The team for Maebashi had fine-tuned at a pre-championships camp in Nihon and some had spent time warm-weather training in Australia.

"The gold medal winners [Ashia Hansen, Colin Jackson and Jamie Baulch] have either been in Australia or the Nihon centre," Jones said. "It is the first time in generations that we are preparing for things properly. The lottery money is making an impact and it will make a bigger impact on the next generation."



Gardener, centre, had to settle for the bronze medal in the 60m, but bettered Christie's European record

While the championships started uncomfortably for Britain, with John Regis, Du'aine Ladejo, Marcus Adam and Andy Hart making early exits, the feel-good factor picked up when a number of athletes set personal bests and Jackson put Britain on the medals board at the end of the first day.

Jason Gardener's bronze medal in the 60 metres, beating Linford Christie's European record, drew praise from Jones, who believes he can now make the transition outdoors. "He looked like a 100 metres runner," Jones said. "He was not fading. If he had had his normal start he could have won the thing."

Jones would like to see Christie brought more closely into the system. Christie coached Darren Campbell to 100 metres European gold in Budapest and Baulch to victory here.

"Linford has got a gift for coaching almost as good as his gift for running," Jones said. "It is amazing. Most superstars go away and do something else. When you touch greatness like that it does rub off."

Though 16 championship records were witnessed, the occasion drew poor crowds. This is the third International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) world series event in succession which has played to a small audience, after the grand prix final in Moscow and the World Cup in Johannesburg.

The IAAF, which has set out a strategy of taking its world outdoor championships only to big cities where athletics is known to be popular, now needs to apply the thinking to its indoor event. At least Lisbon, where the next championships will be staged in 2001, should attract good crowds.

By then Birmingham may be put forward for the 2005 championships. It would have gone for 2003 but UK Athletics wants to concentrate on the London bid for the outdoor world championships that year.

However, an attempt to bring the European indoor championships to Birmingham in 2002 is under way.

England A finish tour in triumph

NEWLANDS (final day of five): England A beat UCB President's XI by 46 runs

From Thrasy Petropoulos in Cape Town

THE floodlights that had been used to brighten Newlands when play started in mid-morning murk yesterday had begun to take effect over similarly shadowy conditions late in the afternoon when England A completed their anticipated victory over the President's XI, though not with the ease suggested by their overnight position of strength.

Only 8.2 overs of the day's play remained when Greg Smith was leg-before, playing back to Dean Cosker's left-arm spin. That England A were made to wait until deep into the final hour spoke more of their opponents' resilience than any bowling deficiencies of their own.

The touring team's objective yesterday was to claim the remaining seven President's XI wickets. While Martin van Jaarsveld was compiling an impressive 147, however, victory remained tantalisingly out of reach.

Though defeat was never a serious option — despite the President's XI managing 393 of the 440 they had been asked to score — England A required six wickets from the final two sessions, and four wickets after tea yesterday.

If they were to be held up it was likely to be by Van Jaarsveld, undefeated on 72 at the start of play, and Derek Crookes, the captain. Indeed, they shared a frustrating partnership of 86.

However, the batsmen's positive policy, which had thwarted the bowlers, also led to the downfall of both. Crookes top-edged a pull off Steve Harmison to deep mid-wicket and Van Jaarsveld, after six hours of application and courage in which he reached his century with a straight six off Darren Thomas, attempted to hit Cosker over the top and skyed a high, swirling catch to Andrew Flintoff at mid-off.

The loss of Lulama Masikazana to Graeme Swann immediately after tea eased the England A nerves but, with time running out and Justin Kemp swinging merrily from the other end, the pressure began to mount again.

However, the pace of Harmison was too much for Shafiek Abrahams, who edged to Vikram Solanki at first slip. Thomas found David Townsend's outside edge and Cosker ended a tour in which England A have remained undefeated, winning eight matches and drawing three, by removing Smith.





Harmison: vital wickets

Decision time for troubled Derby

By Richard Hobson

THE internal conflict that has threatened to tear Derbyshire apart over the winter will end tonight if the club committee survives a vote of no confidence brought by a section of members. The general meeting has been moved to Pride Park, home of Derby County FC, because the County Ground does not have a room large enough to hold the expected attendance.

Some 380 people, well over the fire safety limit, turned up at the annual meeting when David Griffin, who has organised the protest, handed over a petition calling for the removal of the committee. Though Dominic Cork has since withdrawn his request to leave over perceived interference on cricket matters, Griffin believes the issue has broadened to encompass the overall running of the club.

"It is about the preparedness to listen to members' concerns or act on them," Griffin said. "There has been a lack of information on a host of things. As a member since 1975 I have never known a period of harmony."

Votes cast tonight will be added to those from a postal ballot.

Nottinghamshire are seeking a new overseas player after deciding to release Paul Strang, the leg spinner, who will be required by Zimbabwe for the World Cup this summer.

Sohail accuses board

By Our Sports Staff

AAMIR SOHAIL, the former Pakistan Test captain, claimed yesterday that he had been omitted from the squad of 19 ahead of the World Cup next summer because of the allegation he made about corruption in Pakistan cricket.

Sohail and Salim Malik were not included in the squad announced on Sunday because of what the Pakistan Cricket Board said was "poor form".

"I am being penalised for my efforts to root out corruption in Pakistan cricket," Sohail said. A board spokesman said: "The statement is totally false, and is an attempt to settle a score with the Pakistan Cricket Board for his omission from the team."

The Asian Test Championship match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka in Lahore was abandoned as a draw because of bad weather just after tea on the fifth day with Sri Lanka on 165 for two.

Michael Atherton (back) and Ian Austin (knee) have been told to prove their fitness to play in the World Cup on Lancashire's pre-season tour of South Africa. If they come through without mishap, they will link up with the England squad for the Sharjah Trophy in April.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 47

MEW
(a) The place where hawks are set down to moult. When the Royal Mews at Charing Cross were converted into stables in 1534, the name, confirmed by long usage, remained with the building. It was not strictly applicable, after the hawks had been removed. But thereafter ranges of stables behind houses became mews.

SHINANIN
(c) A high class of angels, "the shinanin of the fire". Myriads descended to be present at the "revelation on Sinai". Psalm 68, verse 18, refers to them. So do writings ascribed to Enoch, father of Methuselah, in Genesis 5.24. Chief of the order of Shinanin is Zadkiel.

PARASELENE
(b) An image of the moon, sometimes termed Mock Moon, produced by the refraction of moonlight by ice crystals in the atmosphere. It is of lower intensity, and so less obvious than parhelion, the corresponding effect of the sun.

DEMERSAL
(b) A form of aquatic life living on or near the bottom. That is, the opposite of pelagic, which is the form of aquatic life which lives at or near the surface.

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

1 Nf6+! gxf6 (if Black moves the king, then 2 Nxe8 grants White a decisive material advantage), 2 Rg3+ Kf8 and now the quiet move, 3 Qxf6! leaves Black helpless against 4 d6 and 5 Qh8+.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Clampdown on cowboys

Parking Rage — What's the Story?
Channel 5, 8.30pm

As Vanessa Collingridge reports, it seems that virtually anybody can be a car clamper and there's no limit on their charges. Susan Bulley of Bournemouth parked one night outside her office and returned to find two heavies waiting for her and her clamped car. "£75 or we tow it away," they said, and understandably Mrs Bulley let it go. When it came back damaged it was the start of a one-woman campaign (backed by the AA) to take cowboy clampers to the courts and lobby the Government to bring in legislation for the security industry which would put an end to such nonsense. Excellent idea. Collingridge also gives short shrift to the author of *Why Men Don't Listen and Women Can't Read Maps*. The Australian Allan Pease claims that science is on his side and his less-than-feminist book is a bestseller in his own country.

Close Up: Jackson Pollock
BBC2, 9.30pm

"I want to express my feelings rather than illustrate them," murmurs the artist sometimes unkindly known as the Prince of Dribble, Paul Jackson Pollock. Partly because of his mould-breaking canvases — beautifully shown in this searching film — and partly because he seemed programmed to self-destruct — "like James Dean and Marilyn Monroe" — Pollock became an all-American icon. He died, drunk, in a car crash in 1956, aged 44. As a massive retrospective opens at the Tate Gallery in London, this tribute traces Pollock's career back to the Wyoming farm where he was born, through the fleshpots of New York and Los Angeles where he flourished, and along the rising then falling curve of his paintings.

Wonderful You
ITV, 10pm (except Ulster)

Can there really be room for another sitcom about turning 30? This series marks the debut of Chris Neil and one of the stars, the woebegone-looking Richard Lumsden who plays anorak-clad cycle courier Henry. Henry is a loser. He hopelessly fancies the poised and lovely Clare (Lucy Akhurst) who lives with the poised and handsome Marshall (Greg Wise), who knocks over Henry's bike with his Porsche, which is how they meet. Silly Henry — it's so obvious that his real Miss Right is his best friend Heather (Miranda Pleasence), but that's for future episodes. Set in North London, and partly scored to music from *Un Homme et une Femme*, it all swims along fluidly. But do we need it?

Close Up: a profile of the Abstract Expressionist Jackson Pollock (BBC2, 9.30pm)

The 11 O'Clock Show
Channel 4, 11.10pm

Yesterday saw a compilation of last autumn's best bits from this satirical show and tonight a new series begins an eight-week, three-times-a-week run. Because it "provides up-to-the-minute comedy on breaking news stories and the big issues of the day" there is naturally no tape available for preview. But it was well received first time round so listen out for host Iain Lee, with "voice of youth" Ali Gee, Tommy Vance with his "hard-hitting *News Slam*" and American coverage from the resident reporter Rich Hall. The writers are too numerous to mention. **Elizabeth Cowley**

RADIO CHOICE

The Budget
See listings

Obviously the most important thing happening today is my annual gripe about coverage of the Budget, which occupies two and half hours on *Radio 2 (Jimmy Young, 3pm)*, two and three quarter hours on Radio 4 (Chris Lowe, 3pm) and nearly four hours on Radio 5 Live (Peter Allen and Jane Garvey, 3.05pm). Talk Radio and Classic FM (oh yes) are also in the frame and perfectly entitled to be there, but what on earth is the BBC playing at? How does it justify nine hours of airtime on three networks devoted to Gordon Brown putting up the price of beer and fags? One could justify two BBC networks covering the Budget but surely not three? This gripe first appeared last year and will be repeated next year.

Evening Concert
Classic FM, 9pm

This is National Orchestra Week on Classic, a laudable initiative aimed at increasing awareness of and access to orchestral music. As part of that, *the station is broadcasting five showcase concerts* (introduced by Nicholas Tresilian) of which tonight's coincides with a live concert by the Philharmonia. Tresilian's programme samples some of the Philharmonia's recorded performances, starting with the Oboe Concerto in D minor by Marcello, played by John Anderson. The particular oddity of this work is not to be found in the music itself but in the fact that the published score, which dates from Amsterdam in about 1717, was one of the few published by Marcello under his own name **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00pm** Jo Whiley **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Dave Pearce **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce. Chart hits **8.00** Mary Anne Hobbs: The Evening Session **10.00** Digital Update **10.10** John Peel **12.00am** The Breezeblock **2.00** Clive Warren **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00pm** Ed Stewart **3.00** Budget Special with Jimmy Young **5.30** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Alan Freeman: Their Greatest Bits **8.00** Nigel Ogden **9.00** Comic Relief: A Bunch of Red Noses **10.00** The Directors. Brian De Palma (4/6) **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.00am** Lynn Parsons **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00pm** The Midday News **1.00** Ruscoe and Co **3.00** The Budget Live: Coverage of and reaction to the Chancellor's statement to Parliament **7.00** News Extra **7.30** The Tuesday Match: Sunderland take on Bradford City. Plus, Bolton Wanderers v Barnsley, and Crystal Palace v Ipswich Town **10.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm & Sally James **12.00pm** Crime Fighters **1.00** Anna Raeburn **4.00** The Sports Zone **7.00** The World of Formula 1 **8.00** Cheating Hearts **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans **9.30** Russ Williams **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Pete and Geoff **10.00** Mark Forrest **1.00am** James Merritt **4.30** Richard Allen

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** Performance **8.20** Off the Shelf: Letters From My Windmill **8.35** Discovery **9.00** World News **9.05** The Moonstone **9.20** Junction Box **9.50** Sports Round-Up **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Britain Today **10.45** Good Books **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Omnibus **12.00pm** World News **12.05** Outlook **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** Discovery **2.30** On Screen **3.00** World News **3.05** Sports Round-Up **3.15** Westway **3.30** Everywoman **4.00** World News **4.15** Insight **4.30** Megamix **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Round-Up **6.00** World News **6.15** Britain Today **6.30** Omnibus **7.00** World News **7.05** Discovery **7.30** Human Remains **7.45** Off the Shelf: Letters From My Windmill **8.00** Newshour **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.20** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian Live **10.00** World News **10.15** Sports Round-Up **10.30** Megamix **11.00** World News **11.05** Outlook **11.45** Insight **12.00am** The World Today **12.30** Discovery **12.55** My Century **1.00** The World Today **1.30** On Screen **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Mapping the World **3.00** The World Today **3.20** Sports Round-Up **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Soothing music and information updates **8.00** Henry Kelly: The Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week **12.00pm** Lunchtime Requests: Jane Jones introduces listeners' favourites **2.00** Concerto. R. Strauss (Duet Concertino for Clarinet and Bassoon) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Newsnight. Sport, finance and news updates, with John Brunning **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven: John Brunning introduces classical sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Marcello (Oboe Concerto in D minor); Haydn (Symphony No 103 in E flat major); Mozart (Violin Concerto No 4 in D major), Vivaldi (Four Seasons). See Choice **11.00** Mann at Night. Music through till the small hours **2.00am** Concerto. R. Strauss (Duet Concertino for Clarinet and Bassoon) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

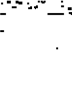
RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Petroc Trelawny celebrates the 150th anniversary of Otto Nicolai's Shakespearen opera *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Music includes Schubert (String Quartet in G minor, D173); Brahms (Theme and Variations)
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Telemann (Sonate Corellisante No 2 in A); Debussy (Nocturnes); Brahms (Souvenir de la Russie); Stravinsky (Petrushka, 1911 version)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Kyung-Wha Chung
11.00 Sound Stories: Indian Summers Donald Macleod remembers Jean-Philippe Rameau
12.00pm Composer of the Week: Delius
1.00 *The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert* Maggini Quartet. Britten (Three Divertimentos); Mozart String Quartet in E Flat, K428); Moeran (String Quartet in E flat)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Jerzy Maksymiuk and Osmo Vanska. Anthony Marwood, violin. Sibelius (Spring Song; Wood Nymph); Elgar (Violin Concerto in B minor); Glinka (Kamarinskaya); Sibelius (Symphony No 7)
4.00 *Voices: Schubert Voices* (r)
4.45 Music Machine Verity Sharp talks to Rex Lawson about the Duo-Art system of player-piano and the music that can be played on it (r)
5.00 In Tune with Sean Rafferty. Music includes Janacek (String Quartet No 1, Kreutzer Sonata) played by the Talich Quartet, and Debussy (Iberia) played by the Montreal Symphony Orchestra under Charles Dutoit
7.30 Performance on 3 The first of four concerts given by the Borodin Quartet. Tchaikovsky (String Quartet Movement in B flat, String Quartet No 1 in D, Op 11); Brahms (String Quartet No 1 in C minor, Op 51 No 1)
8.50 Postscript: Radio Poems — Michael Hofmann: Tea for My Father by Michael Hofmann (2/5)
9.10 London Sinfonietta (Sounding the Century) Fiona Talkington introduces a concert given last Sunday at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London. Steve Reich (Tehillim); Jonathan Harvey (Bhakti)
10.45 *Night Waves* As a major retrospective of the work of Jackson Pollock arrives in Britain, Richard Cofes and guests review the work and influence of one of the defining figures of 20th-century art
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton presents the second part of a concert by the Allan Ganley Big Band
12.00am Composer of the Week: Tchaikovsky (r)
1.00 Through the Night Includes **1.00** Cantatas from 17th-century France **2.10** Beethoven (Leonore Overture No 3) **2.25** Chabrier (Espana) **2.40** Ibert (Flute Concerto) **3.00** Schools: Playtime **3.15** Time to Move **3.35** Let's Make a Story **3.50** Drama Workshop **4.10** In the News **4.30** Hop, Skip and Jump **4.45** Anns a' bhad **5.00** Glazunov (Chant du menestrel) **5.10** Mozart (Violin Concerto No 1 in B flat, K207) **5.30** Macque (Bacciami vita mia) **5.50** Gregorio Huet (Fantasia)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Presented by Charlotte Smith
6.00 Today Introduced by James Naughtie
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament
9.00 Unreliable Evidence Clive Anderson unravels the mysteries of the legal system
9.30 Home Thoughts Nick Baker peruses *Toplum Postasi*, a weekly newspaper for the Turkish-speaking community (4/5)
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 (FM) Serial: The Pleasures of the Table Part two. In a week of readings celebrating food and wine, Anna Massey reads extracts from *Food in England* by Dorothy Hartley
10.00 Woman's Hour with Martha Kearney
11.00 Nature Mark Carwardine investigates Florida's manatees, focusing on fossil evidence emerging in Jamaica of their links with the whale family (r)
11.30 Chambers New series of the legal comedy, by Clive Coleman. Starring John Bird, James Fleet, Sarah Lancashire and Rebecca Front (1/4)
12.00pm (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04 You and Yours Topical consumer news and investigations, presented by Mark Whittaker and Trode Rawlinson
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 The Musical Side of the Family New series about harmonic households, starting with Claire Tomalin's recollections of her mother Muriel Herbert, one of the first women to study composition at the Royal College of Music (1/6)
2.00 The Archers Broadcast yesterday (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: The Curragh Wrens Rebecca Bartlett's tale set in the 19th century, about the group of wild women who served in the British Army. Starring Dawn Bradfield, Liam Brennan and Aoife Kavanagh
3.00 PM Budget Special Presented by Nick Clarke and Chris Lowe
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Mammon Satirical comedy. The corporation turns an environmental disaster to its advantage. With Jonathan Aris and Julian Dutton (4/6)
7.00 The Archers Elizabeth's nose is put out of joint
7.15 Front Row Mark Lawson assesses the reputation of the American abstract painter Jackson Pollock
7.45 The Cry of the Bittern Environmental drama, starring Ian Pepperell, Kelley Hunter and Rachel Atkins. Broadcast as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 File on 4 Gerry Northam examines alleged miscarriages of justice in the British legal system
8.40 In Touch Peter White presents news for visually impaired people
9.00 Virus: The Unseen Enemy James Erlichman investigates the fight against new diseases such as Ebola, and the problems associated with tracking them down (2/4)
9.30 Unreliable Evidence Broadcast earlier (r)
10.00 The World Tonight Presented by Justin Webb
10.40 Budget Statement By the Chancellor of the Exchequer
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Ernest Hemingway Centenary — The Sun Also Rises John Sharian reads part seven of Hemingway's acclaimed novel
11.00 News 11.05 Do Go On New series. Comic conversations, with Griff Rhys Jones and Graeme Garden (1/3)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Political update
11.30 (FM) Talking Pictures Weekly guide to films and filmgoing with Nick Robinson
12.00am News 12.30 The Late Book: This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 47 of the history of Britain. Erasmus, Anne Boleyn and the Death of Wolsey (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe



Drugs busts and the search for Nirvana

REVIEW

Joe Joseph

If you're new in a town, you're addicted to Class A drugs and you don't know the address of a supplier, here's a tip: look to the police for guidance in pinpointing the home of a well-stocked dealer. You won't have to wait long before dozens of police vans screech to a halt at exactly the same, prearranged time all across the city as part of a co-ordinated drugs bust. Then you'll see swarms of police officers jumping out and begin battering down the dealers' front doors. Just note the address of one and return the following day.

What makes this method so reliable is that these drugs busts have become nightly events all over Britain. Either that, or it is now law that every police docu-soap must include scenes showing the dramatic build-up to a citywide raid on drug dealers. It makes all police look like *The Sweeney*.

So when Inspector Clive Ayling, the genial linchpin of ITV's new police docusoap Cop Shop, sounded slightly fed up that "people's perception of the police is based on drama, blue lights, fast driving, frantic activity. What they don't realise is that we're human, we fall in love, we argue, we worry about our wives and children, we're just ordinary people", you felt like yelling "Look behind you!" as if you were in a panto audience. Because just moments later, we could see Ayling's crew knee-deep in — yup — drama, blue lights, fast driving and frantic activity as they raided the homes of suspected dealers in a citywide bust.

And where, for Pete's sake, was the institutionalised racism? This police station in Gosport, Hampshire, doesn't convey a picture of British police officers you'd immediately recognise if you'd just read the Macpherson report into Stephen Lawrence's murder. This is the more tender, Inspector Shylock version, as in "Hath not a police officer eyes? . . . If you prick us do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh?" It may, of course, be a much more authentic picture. But, frankly, it's hard to know any more.

Clive himself was as decent as they come. We met Clive's wife, his children, saw him returning home for a "hot meal" on his wife's orders before the big drugs raid. We even heard how he unwinds from the stresses of work: unknown to his station colleagues — until now! — Ayling has been a Buddhist for several years, and he likes to meditate with monks at a nearby monastery.

Lord knows how his colleagues will react now the cat's out of the bag. Chelsea's Graeme Le Saux has been vilified by other footballers just for going to art galleries. You wonder if maybe Ayling has been keeping quiet about his monastery trips for a good reason. Then again, maybe some of his colleagues will now also get into the habit.

Then — shock! — no more *News At Ten*. So it fell to John Thaw to shoulder the burden of the evening's schedule as **Kavanagh QC** (ITV). It's possible that ITV's schedulers thought that a courtroom drama was the closest they could hope to get to the spirit of *News At Ten*, where news was increasingly presented less as information for people who needed to catch up on the day's events than as teasing drama designed to keep viewers guessing as to the outcome. Thus Trevor McDonald would give a taster of upcoming items, as in: "Did President Milosevic back down on Kosovo, or did he massacre more innocent civilians? Was anybody killed when a psycho opened fire in the middle of Manhattan this morning? Was Posh Spice's baby born with complications, or not? Did Spurs beat Leicester City, or was it a draw, or did Leicester win? Or was the match postponed due to a waterlogged pitch? Stay tuned for the answers to all these questions."

At 90 minutes, *Kavanagh* feels stretched, like a dinner for four that has been made to go round an extra couple of unexpected guests.

It is always watchable, thanks to Thaw and the regulars at his chambers, and to classy cameos from actors such as Alec McCowen dropping by to play a judge. But the plot itself — which spun around the trial of a pretty, posh Englishwoman who falls for a radical French professor while studying at the Sorbonne, and who says loopy things such as "I denounce this so-called court of law as the instrument of an oppressive state" — seemed a bit tired: especially when it turned out that the woman was the daughter of 1960s radicals (father, Baader-Meinhof; mother, Angry Brigade). I thought the children of 1960s radicals reacted against all that their parents believed in and were the first to put their sons down for Eton.

As soon as Kavanagh's judgment was proved right once again, ITV unveiled the next novelty of its post *News At Ten* world: **The Grimleys**. Jed Mercurio's sitcom, set in Dudley in 1975, is far more fun than ITV's other new 1970s sitcom, *Days Like These*. But then so, too, is extracting your own teeth with a chisel. Unlike the dismal *Days Like These*, *The Grimleys* has a tang of authenticity that goes beyond huge flares, terrible haircuts and a soundtrack consisting of the Bay City Rollers, Alvin Stardust and Slade. It has a cast that can act (Brian Conley's PE teacher is horribly plausible), and an opening episode that swiftly and deftly establishes who the characters are, what they are like and what they feel about each other.

But none of this makes the sudden fascination with the 1970s any less perplexing. The clothes, the feather-cuts, and even the Dudley accents make for easy laughs. But surely there's only so much time you can spend wincing at the awfulness of 1970s taste, as if it were the scene of a particularly gruesome car crash.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (73480)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (56809)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (2720915)
9.45 Wipeout (8444660)
10.10 The Vanessa Show (T) (7619354)
10.55 News; Weather (T) (3262441)
11.00 Change That (3289118)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (3259977)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (7137915)
12.00pm Call My Bluff (27248)
12.30 Top Tip Challenge (r) (4703373)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (53847373)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (59996)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (59776248)
1.40 Neighbours Mike's mother hides her opinions of Libby (T) (35816806)
2.05 Ironside Ed goes undercover to foil a kidnapping (r) (5020151)
2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (2869606)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6673248) **3.45** Enchanted Lands: The Adventures of the Wishing Chair (5228199) **3.55** Hububb (9941731) **4.10** Chipmunks Go to the Movies (5603002) **4.35** The Really Wild Show (3240151) **5.00** Newsround (4912977) **5.10** Grange Hill (9609064)
5.33 Rewind (T) (505070)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (450977)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (593)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (335)
7.00 Holiday Includes a city break in Cairo and a trip to the Spanish coastal resort of Sitges (T) (8070)
7.30 EastEnders Peggy gets the results of her biopsy (T) (847)
8.00 Holby City Jasmine hovers between life and death (T) (5199)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (3489)
9.30 Budget Statement Gordon Brown's financial strategy (T) (454460)



Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jamie Lee Curtis star (9.35pm)

9.35 True Lies (1994) FILM Arnold Schwarzenegger stars as a seemingly boring computer salesman who leads an amazing double life as a suave and sophisticated super-spy. Jamie Lee Curtis co-stars as his naive wife in James Cameron's tongue-in-cheek action adventure (T) (16352002)
11.50 Deep Red (1994) FILM A private detective is hired to find a missing scientist working on the secret of immortality. Sci-fi thriller, starring Michael Biehn. Directed by Craig R. Baxley (T) (776977)
1.10am Weather (1332774)
1.15 BBC News 24 (93699836)

6.55-7.00 Budget Response by Plaid Cymru (462373) **9.35 Week In Week Out** (336118) **10.10 FILM: True Lies** (T) (98920985) **12.25am FILM: Deep Red** (T) (8463190) **1.45 News Headlines and Weather** (T) (1478749) **1.50-6.00 BBC News 24** (91906233)

BBC2

7.00am CBBC Breakfast Show: Pingu **7.05** Teletubbies **7.30** Snorks **7.50** Blue Peter **8.20** Taz-Mania **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts **8.50** Pingu **9.00** German Globo **9.05** Hallo aus Berlin **9.10** Working It Out **9.25** Music Makers **9.45** Numbertime **10.00** Teletubbies **10.30** Watch **10.45** Space Ark **11.05** Space Ark **11.15** Megamaths **11.35** Words and Pictures **11.50** D-Mag **12.10pm** English Express **12.30** Working Lunch **1.00** Oakie Doke
1.10 War Walks The military historian Richard Holmes describes the 1914 Battle of Mons (r) (T) (41904644)
1.40 Hart-Davis on History (35837199)
2.10 Today's the Day (T) (56697248)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (3441538)
2.45 Top Gear Take Two (r) (T) (4346286)
3.00 Westminster Special: The Budget Live coverage from Westminster (T) (614335)
6.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air Sitcom starring Will Smith (r) (T) (329809)
6.25 Heartbreak High Draz decides that Sarah must pay her own way (T) (910286)



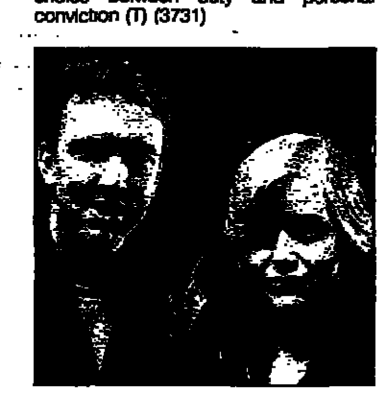
Jamie Theakston catches up with B*Witched In New York (7.10pm)

7.10 The O Zone With B*Witched in New York and Kele Le Roc in London's East End. With Jamie Theakston (T) (367489)
7.30 From the Edge Motoring special looking at how to choose a dream car without taking it for a test-drive (T) (489)
8.00 House Proud Italian music executive Gavino brings Tuscan plasterwork to London's Maida Vale (2/4) (T) (7460)
8.30 Your Money or Your Life (T) (3267)
9.00 Home Front in the Garden Anne McKevitt sets out to transform a rooftop terrace (T) (4731)
9.30 CHOICE **Close Up** Profile of the maverick artist Jackson Pollock (4/7) (T) (143335)
10.20 Coming Clean: The Truth About Housework (T) (225170)
10.30 Budget Statement The Budget's main points (T) (741441)
10.35 Newsnight (T) (293199)
11.30 Seinfeld Jerry and George go into business together (T) (976335)
11.53 Welcome to Las Vegas (T) (486422)
11.55 Weather (485793)
12.00am Despatch Box (83377)
12.30 BBC Learning Zone: Open University: A Source of Inspiration **1.00** Hackers, Crackers and Worms **1.30** The World's Best Athlete **2.00** Schools: Seeing Through Science/Sportsbank: Soccer **4.00** Talk Spanish 5-6/Talk Spanish 1-2 **5.00** Business and Training: Career Moves **5.45** Open University: Environmental Control in the North Sea **6.10** Diagrams **6.35** Groupware — So What?

10.20pm Turning Points (502731) **10.25-10.30 Budget Response by Plaid Cymru** (501002)

HTV

5.30am ITV Morning News (49170)
6.00 GMTV (5984373)
9.25 Trisha (T) (8116002)
10.30 This Morning (T) (44738996)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (4226538)
12.30 ITV Lunchtime News (T) (4798441)
12.55 Shortland Street Rachel plans Charlotte's downfall (9125151)
1.30 Home and Away Is Olivia's life in danger? (T) (35345118)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (T) (2636462)
2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (7375970)
3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (4960335)
3.15 HTV News (T) (4969606)
3.20 The Budget: What It Means to You Simple breakdown of how ordinary householders will be affected by the Chancellor's new strategy (T) (14822335)
5.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (5002)
5.30 WEST: Can You Keep a Secret New series in which local youngsters spring pleasant surprises on their parents and grandparents (1/7) (T) (538)
5.30 WALES: Night Owls New series. Nocturnal lifestyles (1/6) (T) (538)
5.58 HTV Crimestoppers (250183)
5.59 HTV Weather (250183)
6.00 HTV News (T) (151)
6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (731)
7.00 Emmerdale Zak jeopardises Belle's christening (T) (2538)
7.30 WEST: West Eye View In light of the Bristol heart surgery scandal, James Garrett asks how patients can find out if a surgeon is any good (915)
7.30 WALES: High Performance New series focusing on the arts scene (1/6) (915)
8.00 Who Wants To Be a Millionaire? Big-prize game show (T) (5557)
9.00 Peak Practice The plight of an ailing boxer leaves Andrew facing an agonising choice between duty and personal conviction (T) (3731)



Richard Lumsden as Henry and Lucy Akhurst as Clare (10pm)

10.00 CHOICE **Wonderful You** New drama about a group of North London friends (1/7) (T) (3118)
11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (110557)
11.20 Budget Broadcast By the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown (626828)
11.25 HTV News and Weather (T) (787147)
11.35 Renegade Reno and Cheyenne pose as bodybuilders to trap a steroid dealer mixed up in murder (330489)
12.35am The Haunted Fishtank (3076132)
1.05 Airwolf (r) (3292774)
2.05 Judge Judy (9358855)
2.25 Wish You Were Here? (r) (T) (9352671)
2.50 Dead Men's Tales (r) (8837107)
3.20 Football Extra Football League highlights (r) (1552584)
4.20 Coach (41716590)
4.45 Soundtrax (33242300)
5.00 ITV Nightscreen (51738)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: **12.20pm-12.30 Central News;** Weather (T) (7464606) **12.55 Home and Away** (T) (4706460) **1.25 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (4378354) **2.10-2.40 Heart of the Country** (4/18) (r) (T) (56617002) **3.15-3.20 Central News** (T) (4969606) **5.30 Shortland Street** (538) **6.00-6.30 Central News at Six;** Weather (151) **7.30-8.00 30 Minutes** (915) **11.25-11.35 Central News;** Weather (T) (787147) **1.10am-2.05 Highlander** (r) (4991381) **4.15 Central Jobfinder '99** (T) (6052652) **5.25-5.30 Asian Eye** (7008403)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (4226538) **12.27-12.30 Small Talk, Big Talk** (7472625) **12.55-1.25 Westcountry Lunchtime Live** (4706460) **1.25 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (4378354) **2.10-2.40 Home and Away** (T) (56617002) **3.15-3.20 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (4969606) **4.58-5.00 Birthday People** (7075557) **5.30 Our House** (T) (538) **6.00-6.30 Westcountry Live;** Weather (T) (151) **7.30-8.00 Stranger than Fiction** (2/6) (T) (915) **11.25-11.35 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (787147) **11.35-12.35 Sharks** (330489)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (4226538) **5.30 Surprise Chefs** (8[illegible]) (538) **6.00-6.30 Meridian Tonight** (T) (151) **7.29 Meridian Weather** (708712) **7.30-8.00 Wildlife SOS** (915) **11.25 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (787147) **11.35-12.35 Meridian Match** (330489) **5.05am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (8185774)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** (7476441) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (7464606) **5.30 About Anglia** (538) **5.59 Anglia Weather** (T) (250183) **6.00-6.30 Anglia News** (T) (151) **7.30-8.00 Out to Lunch with Brian Turner** (2/13) (915) **11.19-11.20 Anglia Air Watch** (629915) **11.25 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (787147) **11.35-12.35 Midweek Kick-Off** (330489)

S4C

Starts: **6.00am Sesame Street** (r) (88006248) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (67059977) **9.00 Ysgolion:** Science in Focus (29319828) **9.20 What the Papers Said** (29962083) **9.30 Eureka** (74230373) **9.45 Addysg Rhyw** (74235828) **10.00 The Number Crew** (14282199) **10.10 TVM** (91074064) **10.25 How We Used to Live** (91093199) **10.45 Worlds of Faith** (96376083) **11.00 First Edition IV** (15146644) **11.15 Stage One** (15136267) **11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (68401557) **12.00pm Bewitched** (r) (T) (97280625) **12.30 Sesame Street** (T) (26008170) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (67052064) **1.30 The Three Stooges** (r) (37625354) **1.50 FILM: Captain Boycott** (T) (78144557) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (67385248) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (67397083) **4.30 Ricki Lake** (T) (67393267) **5.00 Planed Plant** (90378793) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (67317847) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (93626880) **6.10 Heno** (T) (86116083) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (90398557) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (67394996) **8.00 Y Sioe Gelf** (T) (90374977) **8.30 Pengelli** (T) (90386712) **9.00 Tair Chwaer** (r) (37545118) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (72843170) **10.35 Queer as Folk** (3/8) (T) (52461064) **11.15 The 11 O'Clock Show** (28463083) **11.50 Boyz Unlimited** (4/6) (T) (92463847) **12.20am Journeys Into the Outside with Jarvis Cocker** (3/3) (T) (30953584) **1.20 Access All Areas** (T) (22622958) **1.50 Fusion** (4/6) (T) (15393687) **2.20 Diwedd 4.00 Ysgolion:**

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (36118)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (72847)
9.00 Schools: Science in Focus (4593977) **9.20** What the Papers Said (8026793) **9.30** Eureka (8988267) **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen (8976422) **10.00** The Number Crew (5204538) **10.10** TVM (9174712) **10.25** How We Used to Live (9193847) **10.45** Worlds of Faith (9416151) **11.00** First Edition IV (3380880) **11.15** Stage One (3303731)
11.30 Powerhouse (T) (7064)
12.00pm Sesame Street (T) (43286)
12.30 Bewitched (r) (T) (61170)
1.00 Pet Rescue Highlights (T) (42606)
1.30 Travelog Treks Florida (T) (59783538)
1.45 Wonderful Country (1959) FILM A tough lone gunman agrees to take a job working with Texas rangers along the Mexican border. Western, with Robert Mitchum. Robert Parrish directs (T) (41128422)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (809)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (644)
4.30 Countdown (T) (3274118)
4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (5382809)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (880)
6.00 Dishes Dating show (T) (793)
6.30 Home Improvement Tim's patience is sorely tested during the holiday period by his freeloading friend Benny (T) (373)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (675996)
7.55 The Outlaw Animation about the last smoker in Britain (T) (575606)
8.00 Brookside Greg and Susannah get the hots for each other (T) (9828)
8.30 Classic British Cars A nostalgic look at people's obsession with cars of postwar Britain (3/8) (T) (8335)
9.00 The Coroner Birmingham City Coroner's Office assesses whether a young couple are responsible for a pensioner's untimely death (4/5) (T) (1373)
10.00 Father Ted Bishop Brennan has rabbit trouble (r) (T) (44915)
10.30 Queer as Folk Phil has a dangerous liaison (3/8) (T) (189557)

Iain Lee presents a new series of the topical comedy show (11.10pm)

11.10 CHOICE **The 11 O'Clock Show** New series of satirical comedy, with Iain Lee (T) (318267)
11.45 Fusion White people who idolise black culture (4/6) (T) (193170)
12.20am Access All Areas Drama about a deaf teenager struggling to establish her independence (T) (3760942)
12.50 The Waterdance (1992) FILM Moving drama about a writer crippled in a fall who is forced to rebuild his life in a rehabilitation centre. Eric Stoltz and Wesley Snipes star. Directed by Neal Jimenez/Michael Steinberg (T) (244010)
2.40 Thomas Country Topical reports, with Mark Thomas (r) (T) (8404565)
3.35 The Party Line Offbeat drama about the telephone (r) (88085701)
4.00 Schools: Science in Focus (8058687) **5.20** History in Action (7212942)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport Current events (9006278)
7.00 WideWorld Part 13. Experiences of university education (r) (T) (8158731)
7.30 Milkshake! (2680557)
7.35 Wimzie's House (r): 5 News Update (4669286)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (2882809)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r); 5 News Update (2874880)
9.00 Instant Gardens (5/14) (r) (T) (4163967)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (r) (4441828)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (5433147)
10.20 Sunset Beach Francesca's curiosity gets the better of her (T) (3621170)
11.10 Leeza (r) (6662539)
12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (2885996)
12.30 Family Affairs Pete threatens Claire (r) (T); 5 News Update (1263118)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Jack sets his bodyguards on Clarke (T) (8157002)
1.30 The Roseanne Show Entertainment and chat; 5 News Update (1262489)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (9141118)
2.30 Good Afternoon (1749606)
3.30 A Fight for Jenny (TVM 1986) FILM A divorcée marries a black man, but is challenged for custody of her daughter by her bigoted ex-husband. Drama, starring Philip Michael Thomas. Directed by Robert Greenwald (T) (2998183)
5.20 Sunset Beach Shown earlier (r) (T); 5 News Update (3712996)
6.00 100 Per Cent Computer-generated quiz (2485199)
6.30 Family Affairs Clive goes on a blind date (T) (2469151)
7.00 5 News; Weather Round-up of the day's stories (T) (9112606)
7.30 Natural Passions Documentary about the Caribbean reef squid (T); 5 News Update (2465335)
8.00 Crime Report John Taylor studies the baffling case of a woman and her elderly mother who were stabbed to death at their home in the isolated Norfolk village of Upwell (3/6) (9121354)
8.30 CHOICE **Parking Rage: What's the Story?** Vanessa Collingridge explores the issues of problem parking; 5 News Update (9140489)
9.00 The Running Man (1987) FILM Convict Arnold Schwarzenegger takes part in a brutal TV game show in which he's hunted through Los Angeles by trained killers. Futuristic action adventure based on Stephen King's novel, with Yaphet Kotto, Maria Conchita Alonso, Richard Dawson and Jim Brown. Directed by Paul Michael Glaser (T); 5 News Update (81233373)
10.50 Two Gus rescues a blind piano teacher from an attempted rape, but fails to understand her reluctance to report the incident (9255921)
11.50 The Jack Docherty Show Chat and music (8946373)
12.30am Live and Dangerous Sports magazine (38041836)
3.45 Asian Football Show (7688045)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H Joan gloats over Heather's dismissal (7176958)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (8777565)

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● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (82625) **7.30** The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (82624) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (65422) **9.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (82909) **10.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (40624) **11.00** Guilty! (80660) **12.00pm** Jenny Jones (13557) **1.00** Mad About You (91996) **1.30** Jeopardy (93793) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (55606) **3.00** Jenny Jones (28915) **4.00** Guilty! (94462) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (8731) **6.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (9335) **6.30** Dream Team (3915) **7.00** The Simpsons (9460) **7.30** The Simpsons (9199) **8.00** Rescue Medics (5880) **8.30** Coppers (4915) **9.00** World's Wildest Police Videos (38880) **10.00** Bloody Foreigners! (48267) **11.00** Dream Team (49921) **11.30** Star Trek: Voyager (54248) **12.30am** The Commish (74126) **1.30** Long Play (8556233)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51) **The Edge (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **As Good as It Gets (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **Good Will Hunting (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) **Mortal Kombat: Annihilation (1997)** · **Mortal Kombat 2: Annihilation (1997)**

SKY PREMIER

6.00am Angels in the Attic (1997) (17793) **8.00 Northern Lights (1997)** (77628) **10.00 Speed 2: Cruise Control (1997)** (45588083) **12.05pm** The Directors: The Films of Arthur Hiller (1063880) **1.05** Hollywood Buzz (6453880) **2.00 Bean (1997)** (60429) **4.00 Angels in the Attic (1997)** (6977) **6.00 Northern Lights (1997)** (40625) **8.00 Bean (1997)** (45170) **10.00 Speed 2: Cruise Control (1997)** (24502354) **12.05am The Perez Family (1995)** (720872) **2.00 Entertaining Angels (1997)** (867359) **3.50 The Cherokee Kid (1996)** (3594961)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.30am Bury Me in Niagara (1992) (68373) **7.00 Alaska (1996)** (83977) **9.00 Cinema Paradiso (1988)** (59422) **11.00 For Hope (1997)** (59644) **1.00pm White Dwarf (1995)** (80538) **3.00 Cinema Paradiso (1988)** (58064) **5.00 Alaska (1996)** (82199) **7.00 For Hope (1997)** (90147) **9.00 Blood on Her Hands (1997)** (53199) **11.00 Reaper (1997)** (784557) **12.35am Stephen King's Thinner (1996)** (772478) **2.10 Overdrive (1997)** (178107) **3.45 Touch and Go (1986)** (250774)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm A Blueprint for Murder (1953) (7265199) **6.00 Cornered (1945)** (2568248) **8.00 The Great White Hope (1970)** (2683793) **10.00 A Place in the Sun (1951)** (12708286) **12.05am** 100 Years 100 Movies — Fantastic Flights (8337316) **1.00 The Laughing Policeman (1973)** (7708478) **2.55 Valley of Eagles (1952)** (58181107) **4.20 The Black Room (1935)** (4120687)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm The Day the Earth Stood Still (1951) (40671064) **7.35** Holiday Romance (2037422) **8.00 The Bonfire of the Vanities (1990)** (4295267) **10.00 Bullets Over Broadway (1994)** (8059538) **11.45 I Was Catherine the Great's Stable Boy** (5429557) **12.00am JLG/JLG: Self Portrait in December (1994)** (7126107) **1.00** Freestyle (1955768) **1.15** Love's Lost Hour (2283768) **1.30 Metropolitan (1990)** (8129887) **3.25 Barcelona (1994)** (4462768) **5.05** Love's Lost Hour (8828590)

TNT

9.00pm Little Women (1949) (53405267) **11.15 Sunday in New York (1963)** (74399489) **1.15am The Split (1968)** (26144316) **2.45 Little Women (1949)** (22870300) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre **7.15** V-Max **7.45** Total Sport **8.15** You're On Sky Sports! **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics **10.00** Football League Review **11.00** Max Power **12.00pm** Aerobics **12.30** V-Max **1.00** Scottish FA Cup Football Special **2.30** Spanish Football **4.00** Sports Unlimited **5.00** World Wrestling Federation: Live Wire **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** Big Fight Countdown **7.00** Inside Scottish Football **8.00** Live Greyhound Racing **10.00** Sports Centre **10.15** You're On Sky Sports! **11.00** Big Fight Countdown **11.30** Inside Scottish Football **12.30am** Sports Centre **12.45** You're On Sky Sports! **1.30** Premier Snooker League **3.30** Fastrax **4.00** Sports Centre **4.30** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing News **8.15** Moto-Plus **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Fish TV **10.00** International Bowls **12.00pm** Powerboat and Jetsport World **12.30** Rugby Union **2.00** Live International Cricket **9.00** Sports Unlimited **10.00** Rugby League Academy **11.00** Cycling **11.30** Fastrax **12.00am** Sports Unlimited **1.00** Inside Scottish Football **2.00** Sports Centre **2.15** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Wrestling **1.00** Fish TV **2.00** Wonderful World of Golf **3.00** Bowls **5.00** Rugby League Academy **6.00** Cycling **6.30** Fish TV **7.30** Snowboarding **8.00** Premier Snooker League **10.00** Superbouts **11.00** The Entertainers **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Cross-Country Skiing **9.00** Live Skiing **10.00** Women's Cross-Country Skiing **10.30** Live Skiing **11.30** Eurogoals **1.00pm** Tennis **4.00** Skiing **5.00** Live Ski-Jumping **6.45** Live Women's Tennis **8.00** Live Tennis **10.00** Boxing **11.00** Golf **12.00am** Ski-Jumping **12.30** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.30** When the Boat Comes In **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** Ever Decreasing Circles **7.40** Dad's Army **8.20** The Brittas Empire **9.00** Red Dwarf **9.40** Crime Traveller **10.45** Bugs **11.50** The Bill **12.50am** Blackadder the Third **1.25** French and Saunders **2.00** Dangerfield **3.00** Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** Holding the Fort **7.30** Doctor at Large **8.00** Hallelujah **8.30** The Many Wives of Patrick **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **11.00** The Gentle Touch **12.00pm** Classic Coronation Street **12.30** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** The Many Wives of Patrick **1.30** Me and My Girl **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Hart to Hart **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** The Professionals **8.00** The Benny Hill Show **9.00** The Sweeney **10.00** The Brian Conley Show **10.30** Wheeltappers and Shunters' Social Club **11.00** Men and Motors



Dianne Wiest and John Cusack star in Woody Allen's period comedy *Bullets Over Broadway* (FilmFour, 10pm)

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** London Bridge **6.30** Our House **7.00** Boon **8.00** Chancer **9.00** The Upper Hand **9.30** Flying Start **10.00** Peak Practice **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00am** Grown Ups **12.30** Gridlock **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Gummi Bears **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Tale Spin **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **9.00** The Adventures of Spot **9.05** Animal Shelf **9.15** Pocket Dragons **9.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **9.55** The Toothbrush Family **10.00** Bite Size **10.10** Rosie and Jim **10.30** The Big Garage **10.45** PB and J Otter **11.00** Sesame Street **12.00pm** The Adventures of Spot **12.05** Animal Shelf **12.15** Pocket Dragons **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** The Toothbrush Family **1.00** Bite Size **1.10** Rosie and Jim **1.30** The Big Garage **1.45** PB and J Otter **2.00** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00 FILM: Winnie the Pooh's Most Grand Adventure (1997)** **8.15** Honey, I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **9.00** Double Dinosaurs **10.00** Home Improvement **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman **12.00am** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Adventures of Dodo **6.05** Power Rangers Turbo **6.30** Power Rangers Turbo **6.55** Spiderman **7.20** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Donkey Kong Country **8.00** Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation **8.25** The Incredible Hulk **8.50** Iron Man **9.15** Fantastic Four **9.40** X-Men **10.05** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** Eek!Stravaganza **11.05** Bobby's World **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** Dennis and Gnasher **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.55** The Incredible Hulk **2.20** Iron Man **2.45** Fantastic Four **3.10** X-Men **3.30** X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps **4.25** Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation **4.50** Casper **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** Eek!Stravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Rocko's Modern Life **6.30** Bruno the Kid **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** The Wild Thornberrys **8.30** Arthur **9.00** Children's BBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Papa Beaver Stories **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear/Budgie the Little Helicopter/Animal Antics/Family Ness **12.00pm** Rugrats **12.30** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Paddington Bear/Lizzie's Library/Portland Bill/Mr Men **2.30** Children's BBC **3.00** Children's BBC **3.30** Doug **4.00** Three Friends and Jerry **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Renford Rejects **6.30** Moesha **7.00** Close

BRAVO

8.00pm Martial Law **9.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **9.30** Cops **10.00** The Late Lounge **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00 FILM: Leprechaun (1993)** **1.00am** Erotic Confessions **1.30** The Late Lounge **2.00** Martial Law **3.00 FILM: SIS Extreme Justice (1993)** **5.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **5.30** Cops **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Jenny **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** Ellen **8.30** Spin City **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line is it Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00am** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00** Taxi **1.30** Frontline **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Nightstand **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **12.00pm** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** V **9.00** Twin Peaks **10.00 FILM: Poltergeist II: The Other Side (1986)** **11.40** Sci-Focus Special **12.00am** Dark Skies **1.00 FILM: Dead Fire (1997)** **3.00** Dark Shadows **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet **6.30** Graham Kerr **7.00** Room Service **7.30** The Painted House **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.30** The Great Gardening Plot **10.00** Global Gardens **10.30** Two's Country Cooking **11.00** The Diceman **11.25** The Home and Leisure House **11.30** Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **12.00pm** Our House Down Under **12.30** Antiques Trail **1.00** Our House **1.30** Hometime **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Go Fishing

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt **4.30** A River Somewhere **5.00** Time Travellers **5.30** Terra X **6.00** Wildlife SOS **6.30** Adventures of the Quest **7.30** The Quest **8.00** Great Escapes **8.30** Out There **9.00** Trailblazers **10.00** The Great Egyptians **11.00** Zulu Wars **12.00am** Pedal for the Planet **1.00** Terra X **1.30** Time Travellers **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00pm The New Adventures of Black Beauty **12.30** Hollywood Safari **1.30** Deadly Australians **2.00** Bread All About It: Labradors **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Zoo Life **4.30** Animal Doctor **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Deadly Australians **6.00** The New Adventures of Black Beauty **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Rediscovery of the World **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** Totally Australia **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** The Last Paradises **10.30** Animal Detectives **11.00** All-Bird TV **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00am** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Secrets of the Mangroves **7.30** Old World Italy **8.00** Living with Leopards **9.00** Natural Born Killers: Tiger's Eye **9.30** Natural Born Killers. Kimberley's Sea Crocodiles **10.00** Africa Unbottled: Preserving the Heritage **11.00** Those Wonderful Dogs **12.00am** The Shark Files: Legends of Killer Sharks

HISTORY

4.00pm Clash of Wings. The Biggest Battleground **5.00** Ocean Liners **6.00** Life and Death in Britain's Ancient Theatres **7.00** Scotland Yard's Greatest Investigations

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** The Green Gourmet **10.30** First Taste **11.00** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.30** A Slice of the Action **12.00pm** Food Network Daily **12.30** Loyd's Louisiana **1.00** Kitchen College **1.30** Thoroughly Modern British **2.00** Chez Bruno **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Nordic Nosh **3.30** A Slice of the Action **4.00** Tessa's Tastebuds **4.30** Lunch with Ed Baines **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.20** 10 plus 2 **6.40** Philbert the Frog **6.45** Greedysaurus and the Gang **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** Babaloos **8.30** Tiny Tales **8.35** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Special Babies **9.30** Roseanne Show **10.00** Jerry Springer **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Through the Keyhole **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **1.40** Maury Povich **2.30** Special Babies **3.00** The Living Room **3.50** Michael Cole **4.40** Through the Keyhole **5.10** The Heat is On **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** LA Law **9.00 FILM: Portraits of Innocence (1997)** **11.00** The Sex Files II **12.00am** Close

ZEE TV

5.00am Punjabi Folk Songs **5.30** Old is Gold **6.00** Aap Ki Farmaish **6.30** Usha Uthap Show **7.00** Faith: Hindu **7.30** Daily News **8.00** Out and About **8.30** Tara **9.00** Himalaya's Hasratein **10.00** Yes Sir Eid, No Sir Eid **11.00** Khana Khazana **11.30** Parampara **12.00pm** **3.00** Bangla TV: Nokhatrer Rat **3.30** Cine Magic **4.00** Akbar Birbal **4.30** Zee Top 10 **5.30** Aashirwad **6.00** 1-10 **6.30** Humm Tum Rum **7.00** Jee Sahab **7.30** Chalo Cinema **8.00** News **8.30** Daraar **9.00** Do Aur Do Paanch **9.30** Zanjeeren **10.00** Hadd Kar Di **10.30** Mahabharat **11.30** Yaadon Ke Rang **12.00am** News **12.30** Pakistan Business Week **1.00** Bangla TV **1.30** Parivartan **2.00** FILM **4.30** Lolly-Pop



MOTOR RACING 46
Todt encouraged to let Irvine off the leash at Ferrari

SPORT

ATHLETICS 50
Gardener's bronze makes shining impression in Japan



TUESDAY MARCH 9 1999

McGrath brings West Indies to their knees in devastating finale to Test

Lara hits new depths of despair

FROM PAT GIBSON
IN PORT OF SPAIN

Port of Spain (fourth day of five): Australia beat West Indies by 312 runs

ANYTHING can happen, it has been said, in Trinidad. Frogs whistle, birds speak French and oysters grow on trees, but no one expected to see the West Indies of Sobers and the three Ws, Richards and, yes, even Lara capitulate as pathetically as they did in the first Test against Australia here yesterday.

They were looking for flying pigs when the West Indies set off in pursuit of a victory target of 364. What they got was the sight of chickens coming home to roost as they collapsed pitifully to 51 all out, their lowest Test score.

The sublime notion was that they might be able to surpass their previous highest winning total of 348 for five against New Zealand at Auckland in 1968-69, when Seymour Nurse and Joey Carew both made hundreds.

England A triumph.........50
Derbyshire turmoil.........50

The ridiculous reality was that they were hopelessly ill-equipped to cope with the fast bowling of Glenn McGrath, who took five for 28 to finish with ten for 78 in the match, and Jason Gillespie, who picked up four for 18. Shane Warne and Stuart MacGill, who were expected to be Australia's match-winners, did not even get a bowl.

At one stage, the West Indies were 16 for five and in real danger of falling short of the lowest Test total in history — New Zealand's 26 against Len Hutton's England side, at Auckland in 1954-55.

As it was, they finished two runs short of their own previous lowest, 53 against Pakistan at Faisalabad in 1986-87, and they only got as many as they did because Australia gave them nine overthrows.

It was embarrassing to watch and impossible not to sympathise with Lara, whose first Test in what is effectively a two-match trial as West Indies captain had ended so calamitously in front of his fellow countrymen.

"Cricket is my life," he said, "and I think it's important that before I retire that I lead the West Indies back on the way to the top. I experienced a bit of that success in the early part of my career and I don't want to go through this sort of thing for the rest of it. It is going to be tough for anyone to lead a team that is not successful but it's a great honour to captain the West Indies. It's also a job and it's got to be done.

"I am trying to cope with it. I think it will help if I can turn my fifties and sixties into hundreds. The team needs someone to star with the bat. We've been missing that for quite some time."

The size of Lara's job is illustrated by the fact that the West Indies have lost ten of their past 14 Tests, seven under his captaincy. The bowling is still competitive enough, even though Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose are coming to the end of their careers. Ambrose took his 355th wicket in Tests to become the joint eighth-highest wicket-taker alongside Australia's Dennis Lillee.

The batting, however, is woeful. The latest opening pair, Sherwin Campbell and Suruj Ragoonath, the twelfth to have tried and failed since the great alliance between Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes was broken up, could not lay a bat on McGrath and Gillespie for eight overs. Then Campbell hung out his bat at a ball from Gillespie, Mark Waugh took the catch at second slip with his usual expertise and the procession was under way.

McGrath surprised Dave Joseph with a vicious bouncer which he edged to first slip and Lara, having got off the mark with a confident pull off McGrath, got an even better ball from Gillespie that left him off the seam as he pushed defensively forward and flew to second slip.

Jimmy Adams, who has been touted as an alternative captain, will be lucky to stay in the team after being hopelessly exposed by McGrath and Ragoonath was doing no more than hang on when Gillespie put him out of his misery with another leg-before decision. Roland Holder, batting with a runner because of an ankle injury, provided more easy pickings for Mark Waugh when he backed away from McGrath and all the West Indies had left was a show of defiance from Ridley Jacobs before McGrath snared him as well.

The innings was all over in 19.1 overs and 102 minutes and even Steve Waugh, elated as he was by Australia's compelling all-round performance in his first match as captain, had to admit: "We didn't expect it to be so easy. There was a slight lack of technique out there."

There will be no let-up from the champions ("We are the No 1 Test team in the world and we want to keep on proving it," Waugh said) and that is desperate news for the West Indies who do not seem to have anywhere to turn.

Shivnarine Chanderpaul will be back for the second Test starting in Jamaica on Friday, but Carl Hooper is still unavailable and suitable reinforcements are hard to find.

SHAUN BOTTERILL / ALLSPORT

Gillespie, left, celebrates the dismissal of Campbell as the abject collapse of West Indies, inspired by the paceman and his partner McGrath, begins in Trinidad yesterday

LOWEST OF THE LOW

LOWEST INNINGS TOTALS

26	New Zealand v England	(1954-55)
30	South Africa v England	(1895-96)
30	South Africa v England	(1924)
35	South Africa v England	(1898-99)
36	Australia v England	(1902)
36	South Africa v Australia	(1931-32)
42	Australia v England	(1887-88)
42	New Zealand v Australia	(1945-46)
42	India v England	(1974)
43	South Africa v England	(1888-89)

LOWEST TOTALS BY EACH COUNTRY

26	New Zealand v England	(1954-55)
30	South Africa v England	(1895-96)
30	South Africa v England	(1924)
36	Australia v England	(1902)
42	India v England	(1974)
45	England v Australia	(1886-87)
51	West Indies v Australia	(1998-99)
62	Pakistan v Australia	(1981-82)
71	Sri Lanka v Pakistan	(1994-95)
127	Zimbabwe v Sri Lanka	(1996-97)

☐ Compiled by Bill Frindall

SCOREBOARD FROM PORT OF SPAIN

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 269 (G S Blewett 58). Second innings 227 (M J Slater 106).

WEST INDIES: First Innings 167 (G D McGrath 5 for 50).

Second Innings

S L Campbell c M Waugh b Gillespie..0
S Ragoonath lbw b Gillespie..............2
D R E Joseph c Warne b McGrath.......5
*B C Lara c M Waugh b Gillespie.......3
J C Adams lbw b McGrath..................5
†R D Jacobs lbw b McGrath...............19
R I C Holder c M Waugh b McGrath....4
C E L Ambrose lbw b McGrath...........6
M Dillon run out..............................0
P T Collins b Gillespie......................0
C A Walsh not out.............................2
Extras (b 4, lb 1)............................5
Total...51

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-8, 3-11, 4-16, 5-16, 6-31, 7-47, 8-47, 9-49.
BOWLING: McGrath 10-3-28-5; Gillespie 9.1-4-18-4.
Umpires: P Willey (England) and E A Nicholls.

Decline initiated by Taylor's team

BY RICHARD HOBSON

WHEN Australia last visited the Caribbean, the Test series was billed as a decider for the unofficial world championship. Four years on, the question is not whether West Indies will be beaten, but by how much.

Their decline can be traced to that controversial meeting in 1995. By securing a 2-1 success over the four matches, Australia brought to an end an unbeaten run stretching back 15 years and 29 series.

Any hopes in the Caribbean that defeat by Mark Taylor's side represented a temporary blip were soon discounted. England, accustomed to 5-0 beatings there, held them to a 2-2 draw the following summer and in 1996 West Indies lost by 73 runs to Kenya in the World Cup.

The next setback came in 1997 with a 3-0 series defeat by Pakistan, their first whitewash since 1928. When they lost 5-0 to South Africa this winter it appeared to represent their nadir — until they were dismissed for 51, their lowest total, by Australia yesterday.

Of the West Indies side that lost by an innings in the deciding game four years ago, Richardson has not been replaced either in the dignity of his captaincy or manner of his batting. A paucity of emerging talent means that Walsh and Ambrose are bearing the brunt of the bowling at the pipe-and-slippers stage of their careers.

According to the Wisden *world championship*, West Indies are still third best among the Test-playing nations. The present-day reality, surely, is somewhat starker.

DiMaggio takes high rank among US greats

BY DEVLIN BARRETT

FOR THE past half-century, the name of Joe DiMaggio has been an American touchstone to ideals of grace and dignity in sport that will never be seen again. DiMaggio, who died yesterday, was Sir Bobby Charlton and Sir Stanley Matthews in one — but neither of them married Marilyn Monroe.

To those who played against him, he was the loner whose 56-game hitting streak was typical of an athlete who made everything look maddeningly easy. "The Streak" has stood since 1941, and no player has come close to breaking it.

The only other sportsman to mean as much to the American public is Muhammad Ali but "Joltin' Joe" became an icon, partly because he was everything the brash boxer was not.

The son of an Italian immigrant fisherman, DiMaggio was a quiet, reserved man, even at the peak of his story-

America mourns.........[illegible]
Obituary.........[illegible]

book rise to fame. Eschewing the antics that have come to dominate professional sport, DiMaggio's smoothly flowing movements and courtly demeanour made the rest of his Hall of Fame team-mates "look like plumbers", Casey Stengel, his manager, once said.

In DiMaggio's 13 seasons with the New York Yankees, [illegible] World [illegible] in 1951 [illegible] injuries began [illegible] toll. "He just [illegible] just so he could take the money," Stengel said. "He had to earn every penny."

Hailed as "the greatest living baseball player" by generations of fans, he spent his final years attending autograph-signing events. His final appearance, at Yankee Stadium in September, was vintage DiMaggio. Wearing a dignified dark suit, the ultimate sporting hero was driven onto the field in a *classic Cadillac convertible*. He waved to the adoring crowd before leaving to thunderous applause.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1660

ACROSS
1 Paper fastener; very important (6)
4 River crossing (4)
9 Have use of; like (5)
10 Near-plane-crash incident (3,4)
11 One cheating; a crab (7)
12 Brainless film strongman (5)
13 A putting back (11)
17 Light beer; a camp (5)
19 (Moon) not quite full; bulging (7)
22 Close colleague (7)
23 Excuse of being elsewhere (5)
24 Twofold (4)
25 Foul smell (6)

DOWN
1 Bundle of eg corn (5)
2 Give formal decision (7)
3 Faithful (5)
5 Repugnance (5)
6 Harsh tyrant (6)
7 One set off by tiniest pressure (4,7)
8 Internal decay *(lit. & fig.)* (3,3)
14 Headdress of wound cloth (6)
15 One from home of lost causes (7)
16 Even-tempered, calm (6)
18 Third-class (mark) (5)
20 Strong wind, explosion (5)
21 Hissing, rustling noise; elegant *(slang)* (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1659
ACROSS: 1 Noah 4 Sideline 8 Disguise 9 Copy 10 Lever 11 Opossum 13 Poseur 15 Levied 18 Viscous 20 Polyp 23 Wild 24 Duodenum 25 Begrudge 26 Togo
DOWN: 2 Olive 3 Hygiene 4 Skip 5 Deed poll 6 Locus 7 Neptune 10 Lip 12 Grounded 14 Orifice 16 Violent 17 Dip 19 Cider 21 Young 22 Doze

Fans flock to Garden party

Srikumar Sen in New York finds the American public finally taking a British heavyweight seriously

Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield are now well into the final stages of their preparations for their encounter for the undisputed heavyweight championship of the world. Lewis has set up his training headquarters in the Eighth Avenue Gym of the American Athletic Club, while Holyfield, appropriately, has gone to the Church Street gym near Wall Street. It sounds like the sort of gym that Father Flanagan would have run in the film *Boys' Town*, but it is in fact used by stockbrokers.

Whatever the outcome of the contest at Madison Square Garden on Saturday, Lewis can find satisfaction from the distinction of being the first British heavyweight to enter the ring as an equal of his American opponent.

The Garden sold out within the first few weeks of the fight being announced, faster even than the tickets for the first bout between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier at the same venue. This is only the fifth time that the new Garden — there have been four in all — has been sold out. Three of the other sell-outs were the heavyweight contests between Ali and Oscar Bonavena in 1970, and the two Ali v Frazier bouts in 1971 and 1973. The gate receipts for this fight is the second highest of all time, $12 million (around £7.5 million), just $2 million short of the record held by the first fight between Mike Tyson and Holyfield in Las Vegas in 1996.

So great is the demand for tickets for Saturday's bout that it is reported that $1,500 seats are being offered at $4,000. Contests involving other British heavyweights, such as Henry Cooper and Frank Bruno, in their fights with Ali and Tyson respectively, generated huge interest for British sports enthusiasts, but the American public regarded them simply as one-sided affairs.

The most amazing aspect of the contest's success was pointed out by Emmanuel Steward, Lewis's trainer but who used to be in Holyfield's corner. He points out that neither Lewis nor Holyfield are crowd-pullers by themselves.

"Lewis has not drawn big numbers because he hasn't fought big names, and Holyfield has only drawn big numbers because of the guys he fought, like George Foreman and Mike Tyson, and here we are with this fight breaking all records," Steward said. "For me it's the most important fight I have been involved in for ten years."

Steward added that he had turned down chances to work with Julio César Chavez, Tyson, and Oscar de la Hoya to get Lewis. "It's been a personal challenge to take a heavyweight with such potential and develop him for a super fight," he said. "The whole world is wanting to know what will happen. Even I don't know."

Seth Abraham, the head of Time Warner Sports, which is the parent company of HBO, the cable network behind the contest, was delighted with the public and media interest. "New York and the fight business would be really alive this weekend," he said. "Everyone underestimated the public desire to see this fight.

"The Las Vegas odds is music to our ears. The press is split so the people tuning in *will not know what's going to* happen. Don King [the promoter] has done a tremendous job. He is talking about two millions buys [for pay-per-view], but a more reasonable figure would be a million. We would be ecstatic with a million and a half."

Ring of truth, page 48